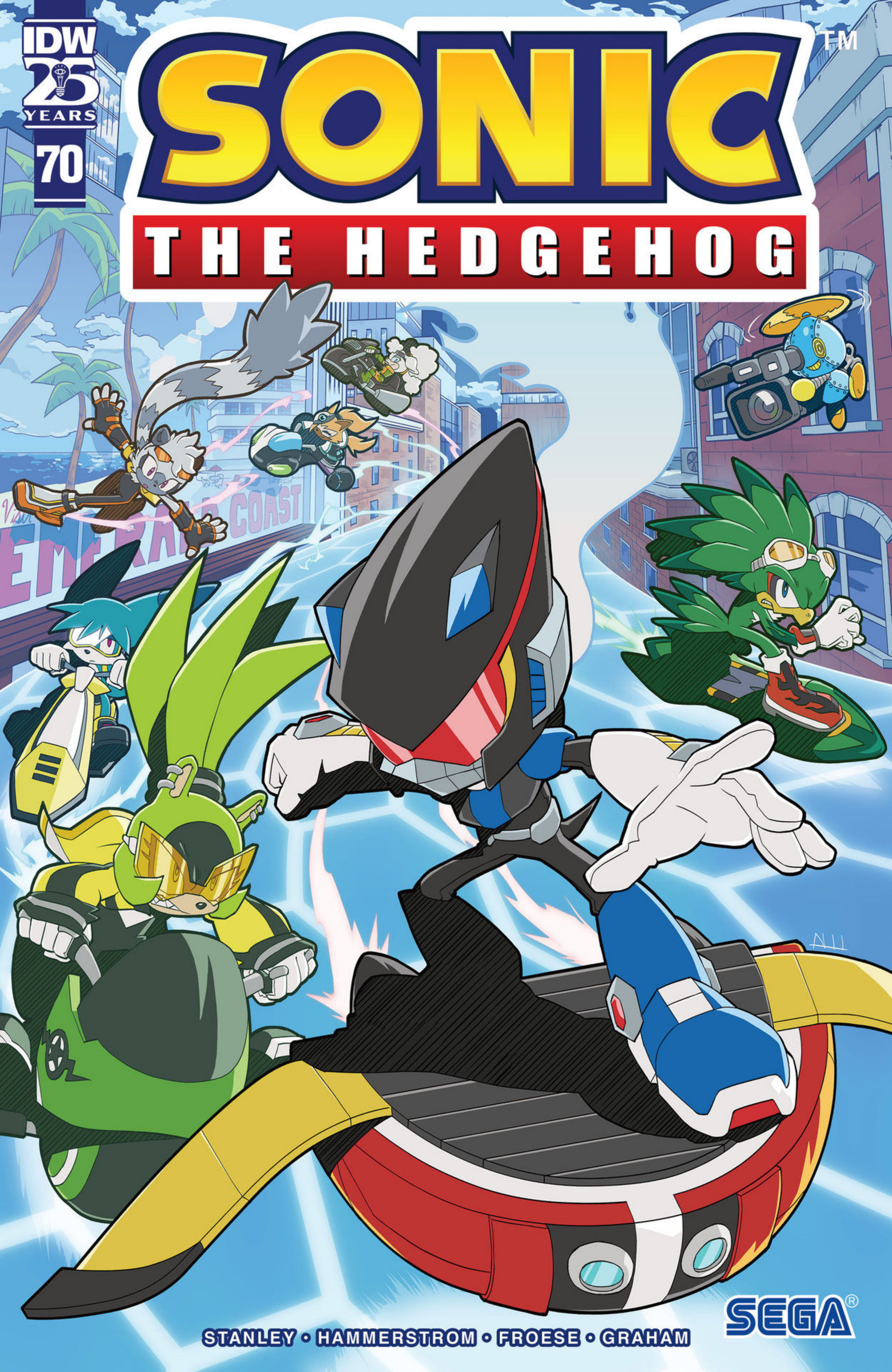

IDW
25
YEARS
70
SONIC
TM
THE HEDGEHOG
STANLEY • HAMMERSTROM • FROESE • GRAHAM
SEGA®

STORY
EVAN STANLEY
PENCILS
AARON HAMMERSTROM
INKS
MATT FROESE
COLORS
REGGIE GRAHAM
COLOR ASSIST
JONATHON DOBBS & RIK MACK

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BIXIE MATHIEU
EDITORS
DAVID MARIOTTE & THEA CHEUK
PRODUCTION
JOHANNA NATTALIE

COVER A
ART BY AARON HAMMERSTROM

COVER B
ART BY ABIGAIL STARLING

COVER RI
ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Afia Khan, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

IDW
@IDWpublishing
IDWpublishing.com

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #70. JULY 2024. © SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 14144 Ventura Blvd., Suite 210, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. Davidi Jonas, CEO • Andrew DeBaker, CFO • Gregg Katz, General Counsel • Mark Doyle, Publisher • Tara McCrillis, President Publishing Operations • Jamie S. Rich, Editor-In-Chief • Sean Brice, Sr. Director Sales • Aub Driver, Director of Marketing • Gregg Katzman, Sr. Manager Public Relations • Warren Buchanan, Licensing Manager • Lauren LePera, Sr. Managing Editor • Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations • Jamie Miller, Director Publishing Operations • Ryan Balkam, Direct Market Sales • Nathan Widick, Director of Design • Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production • Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders.For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com.

STORY SO FAR

AS I SAID, I HAVE PLANS FOR AN AGGRESSIVE BUSINESS VENTURE, WHICH INVOLVES CURBING THE RESTORATION'S WASTEFUL EFFORTS.
TO THAT END, I NEED A MASTER INFILTRATOR. INTERESTED?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ALL OF THIS WAS CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED TO ENSURE CERTAIN PARTIES WERE PREOCCUPIED WHILE I CONDUCTED MY BUSINESS.
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, MY NEEDS HAVE BEEN MET.

WELL, AS PER TONIGHT'S AGREEMENT, CLEAN SWEEP INC. WILL GIVE YOU OUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.
HERE'S TO A PROSPEROUS AND PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP!

KEEP UP THE ACT FOR NOW. PLAY NICE WITH THE OTHERS, BUT NOT *TOO* NICE.
IF THEY'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU, THEY AREN'T LOOKING TOO HARD AT ME.

ONCE CLUTCH IS READY, HE'LL SEND US THE ORDER. WE'LL HIT OUR TARGETS WHILE THEIR GUARD'S DOWN.
HE'LL COME IN, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAOS, AND WE'RE OUT.
WHAT ABOUT TAILS? IS HE A TARGET?
PRIORITY TARGET, ALONG WITH ANYONE IN YOUR WAY.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.

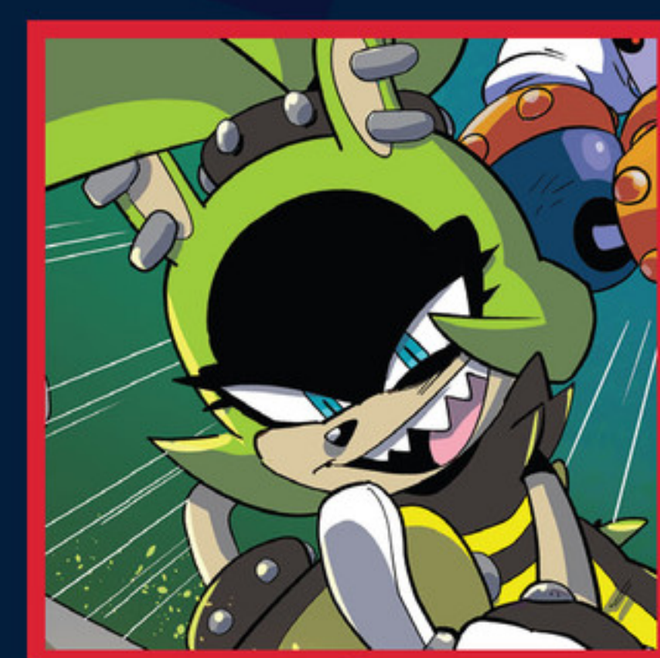
MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-Savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

AMY ROSE
Hammer-Swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.

RESTORATION
Successor to the Resistance.
Rebuilding society.

DUO THE CAT (A.K.A. MIMIC)
Expert Infiltrator.
Ex-Diamond Cutter.

THE BABYLON ROGUES
Legendary Thieves.
Mercenaries for hire.

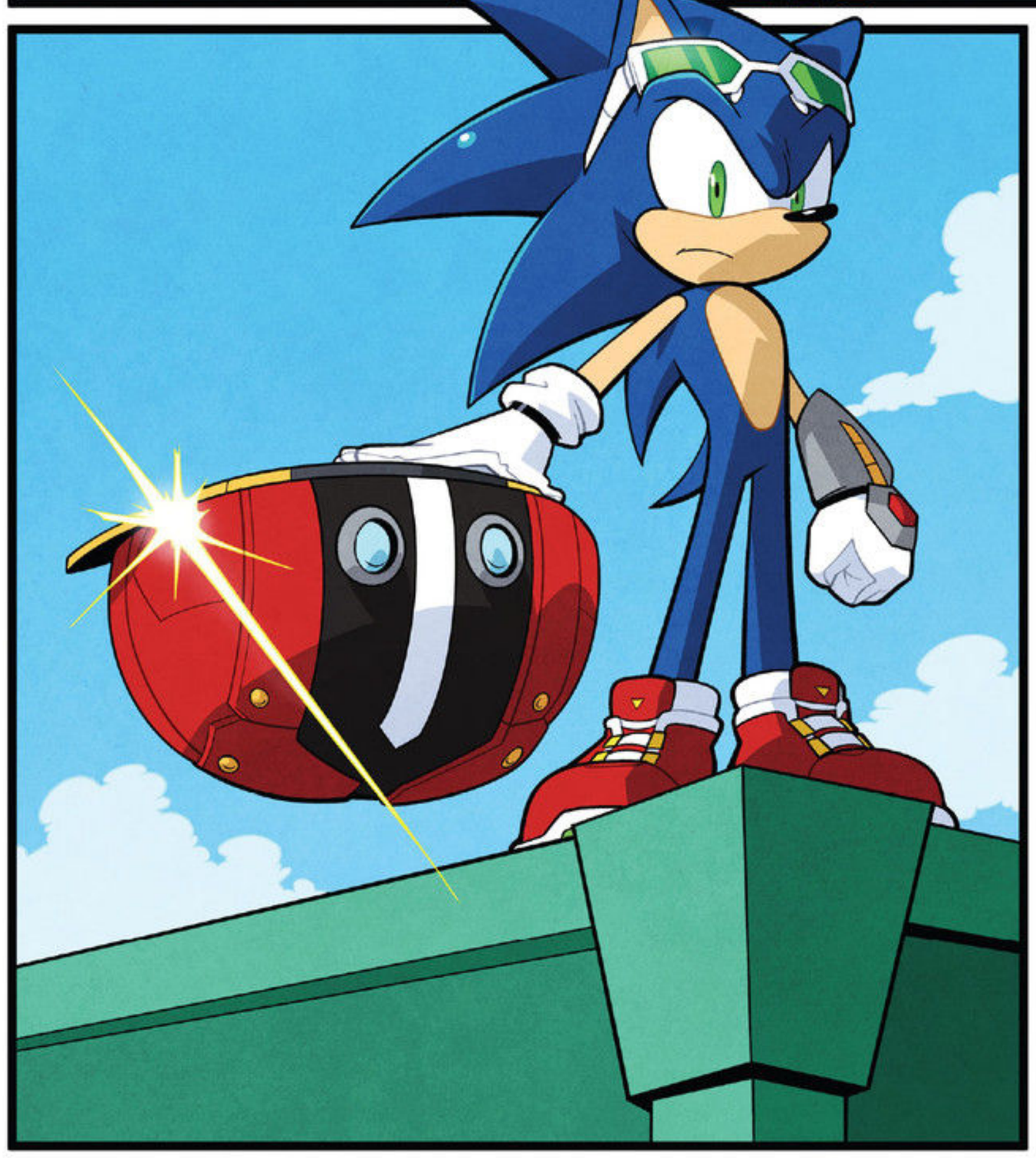


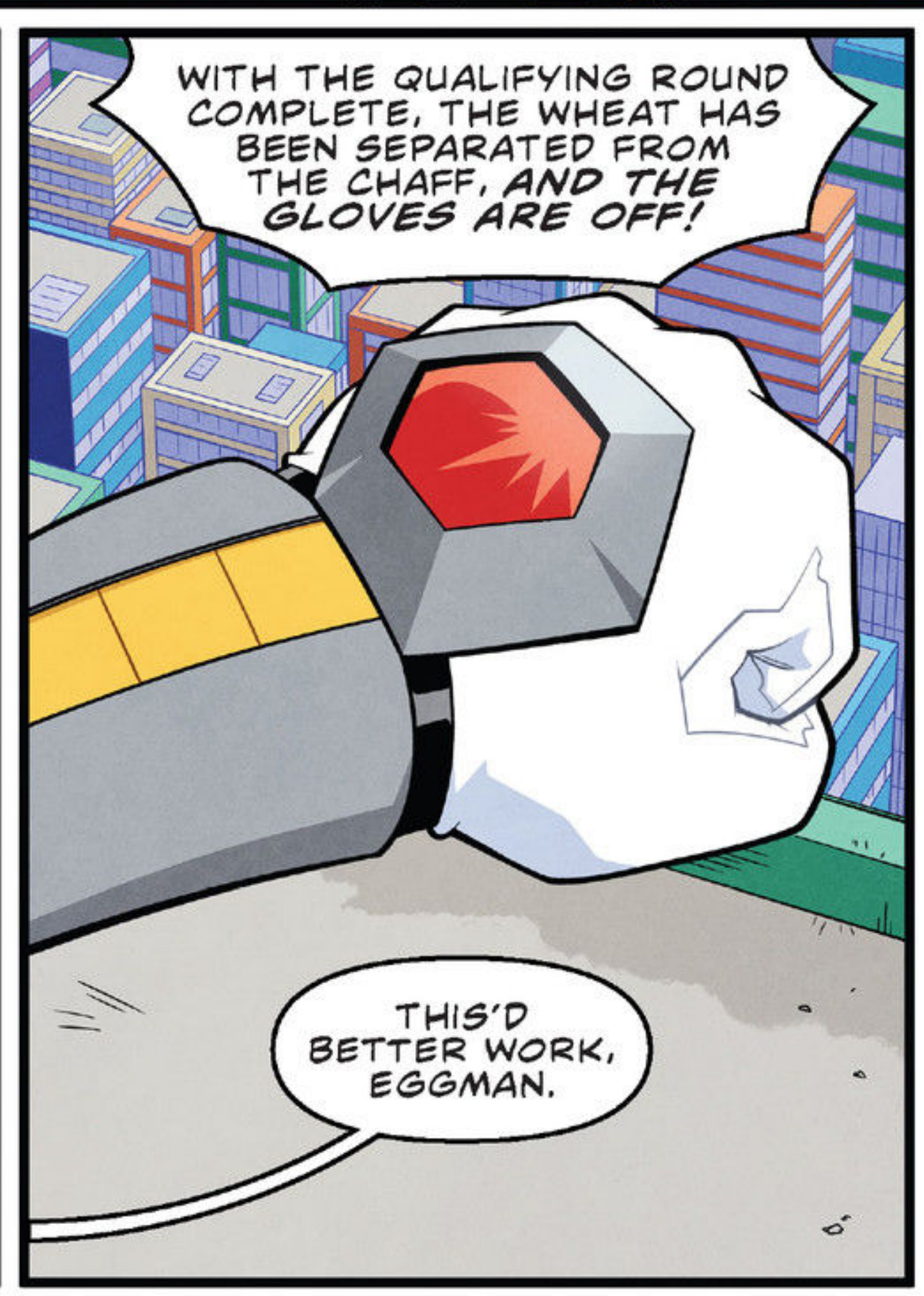
SURGE THE TENREC
The Mean Green.
Roguish speedster.

DR. EGGMAN
Mad Genius.
Egg enthusiast.

CLUTCH THE OPOSSUM
Seedy Businessman.
Eggman tech hoarder.

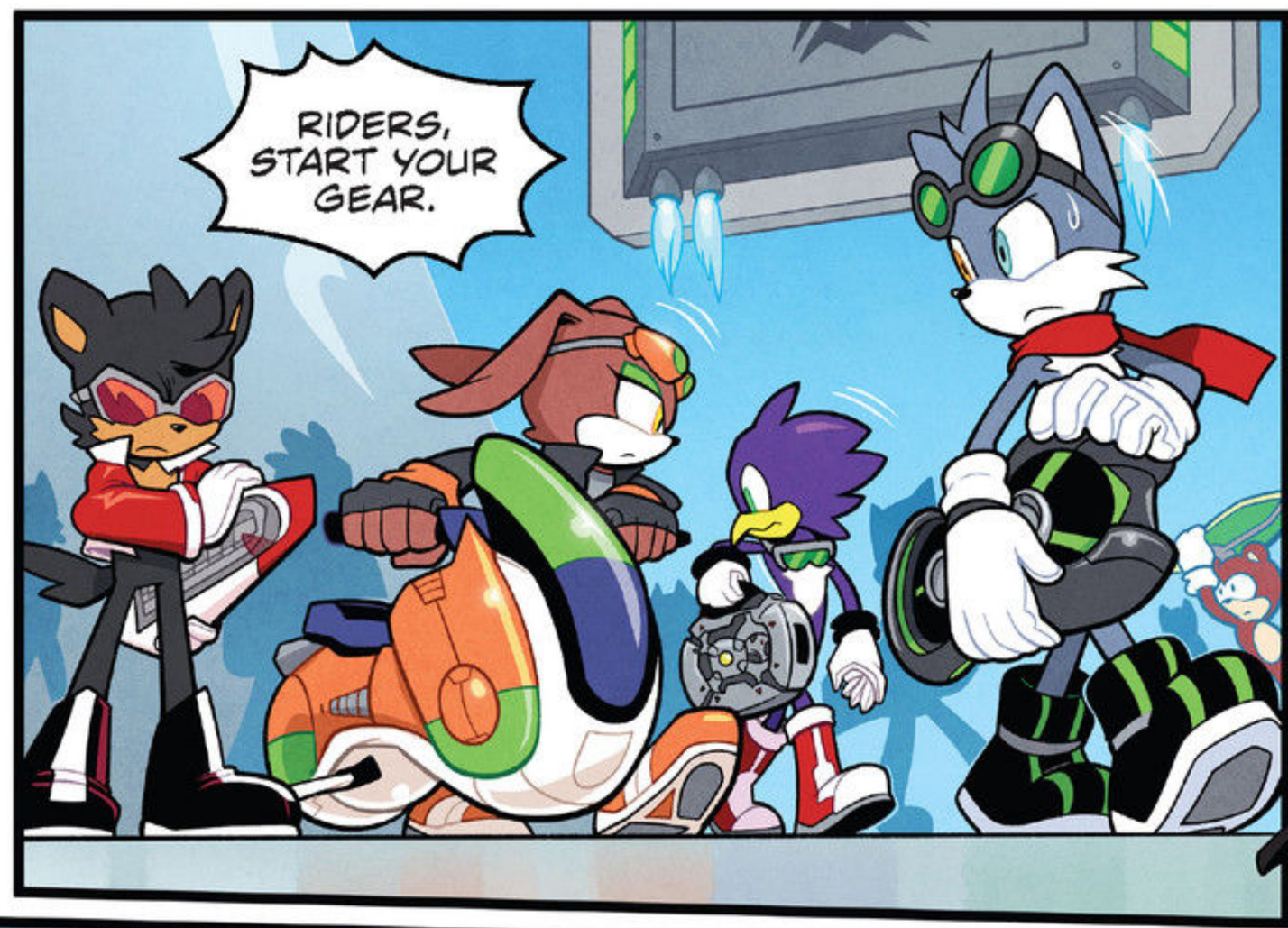
GOOD MORNING, CENTRAL CITY! ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF THE CLEAN SWEEPSTAKES?
YEEEAAAAAAH!

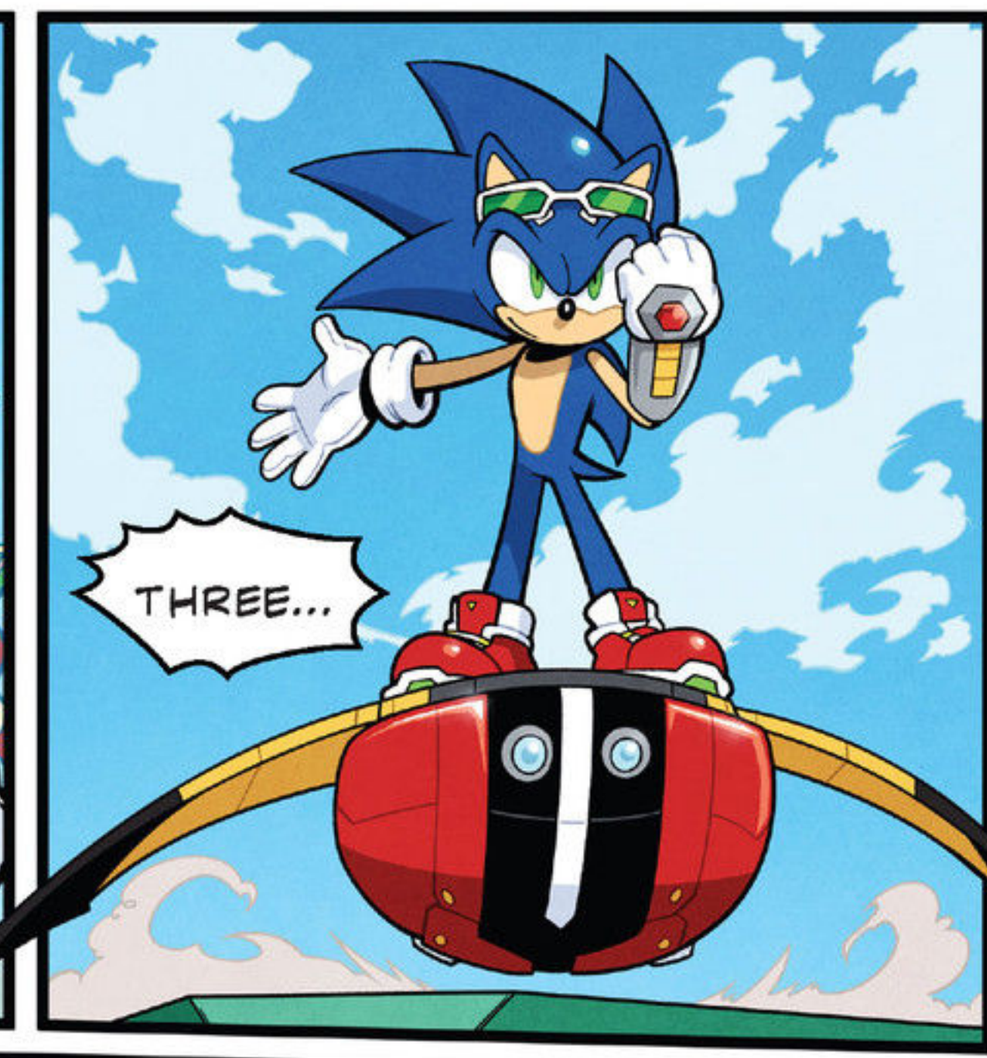



WITH THE QUALIFYING ROUND COMPLETE, THE WHEAT HAS BEEN SEPARATED FROM THE CHAFF, AND THE GLOVES ARE OFF!
THIS'D BETTER WORK, EGGMAN.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS EVENT IS SIMPLE. RIDERS, YOUR GOAL TODAY...

...IS TO SURVIVE.
THIS COURSE IS EQUIPPED WITH ONLY THE MOST CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY, PUN ENTIRELY INTENDED...
...THANKS TO CLEAN SWEEP INC.'S RECYCLING EFFORTS!


RIDERS, START YOUR GEAR.


THREE...

...TWO...
...ONE...
FWOOSH
...GO!

VETERAN RIDER JET THE HAWK TAKES THE LEAD! IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED WHY THEY CALL HIM THE "WIND MASTER," LOOK NO FURTHER, FOLKS.

OUTTA THE WAY, CHUMPS! BABYLON ROGUES, COMIN' THROUGH!

HA! I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A CHALLENGE!

WHOOSH

YOU WANT A CHALLENGE, HUH?

WHAT'S THIS? THERE'S SOME SORT OF...ROGUE RIDER ON THE COURSE!

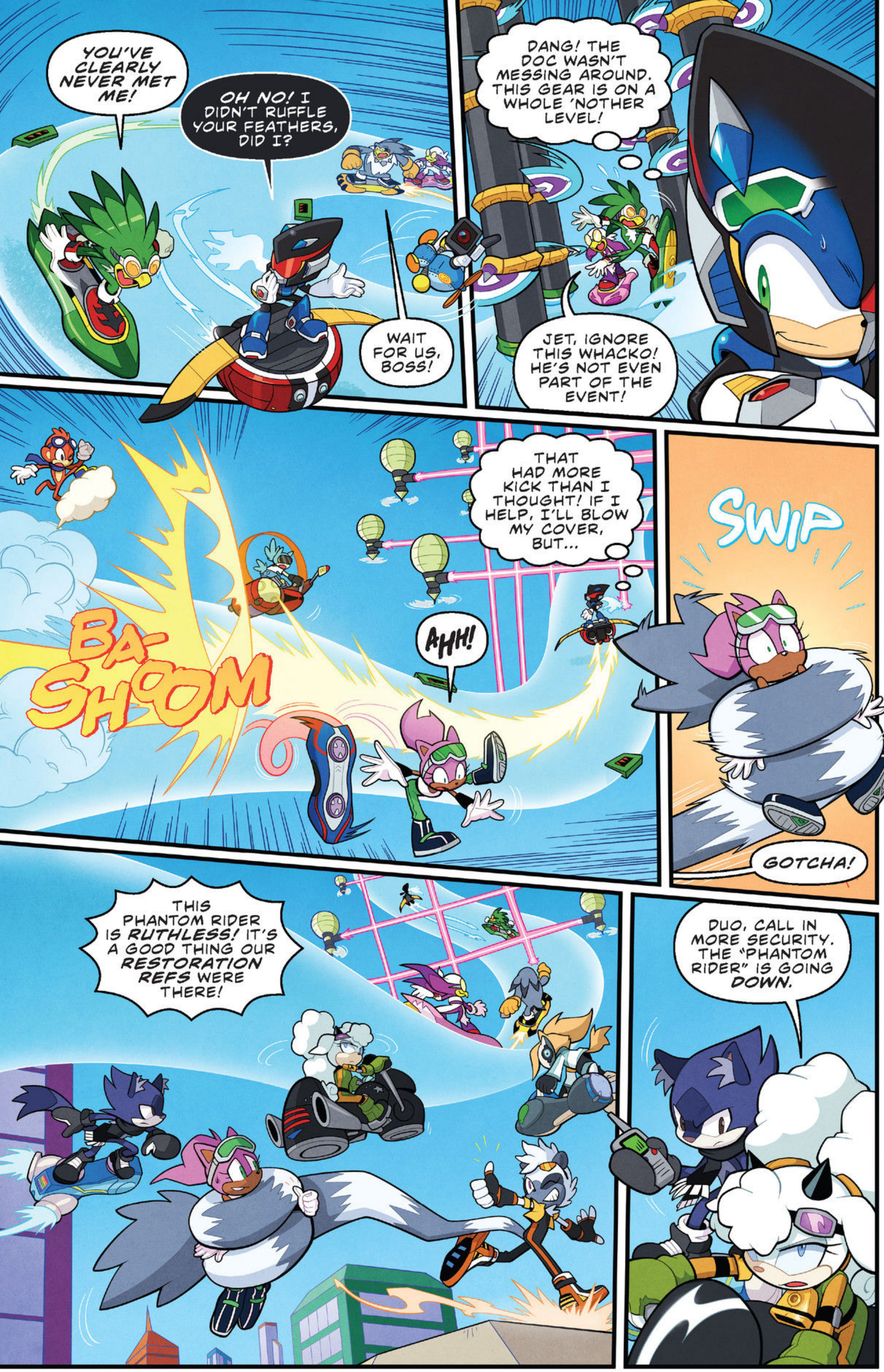
LET ME GO, YOU BIG MEANIE!

GRAB

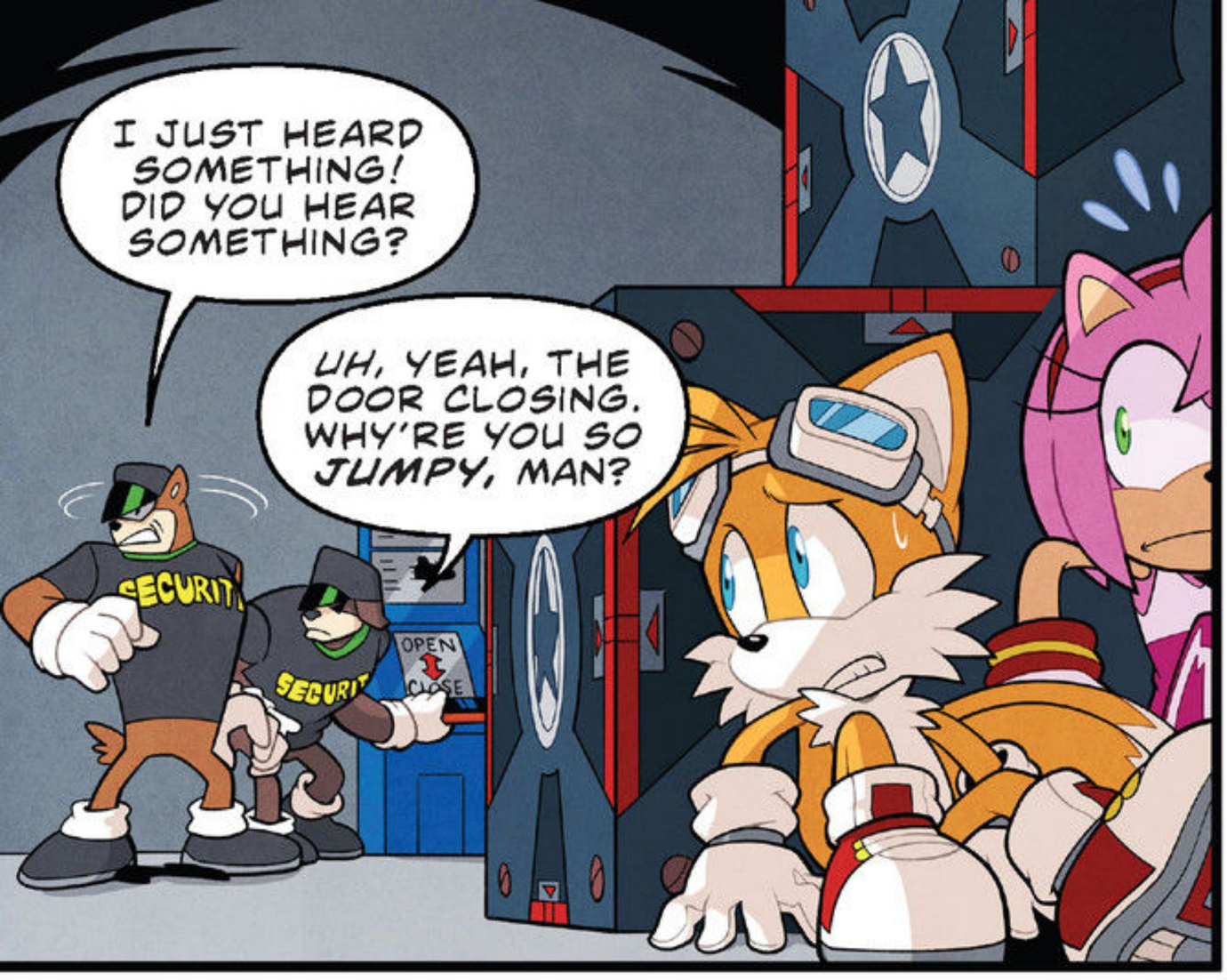
ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP!

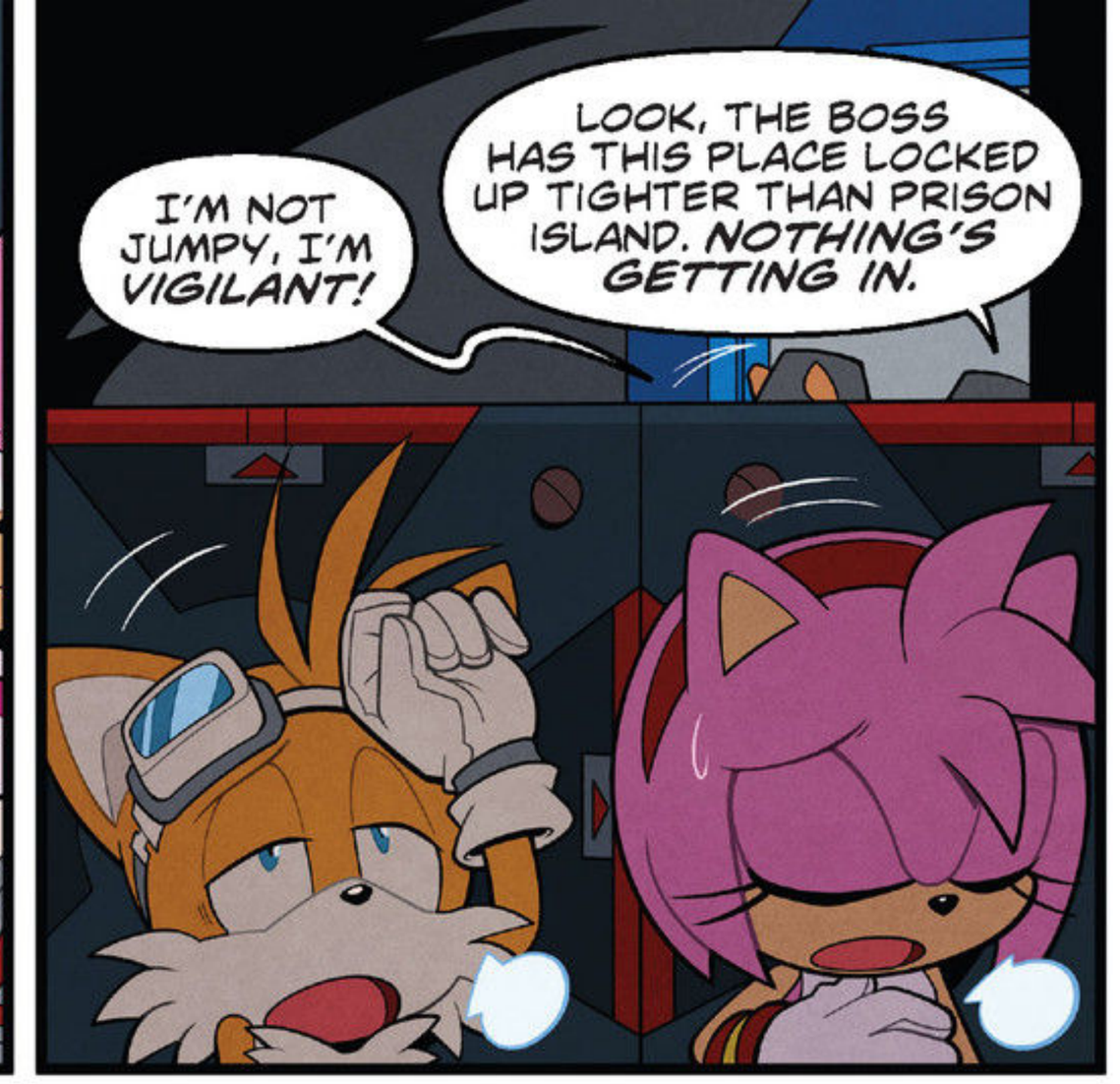
THE ONLY "ROGUE" HERE IS THAT GREENHORN JET AND HIS CHEER SQUAD. YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT THE PHANTOM RIDER!

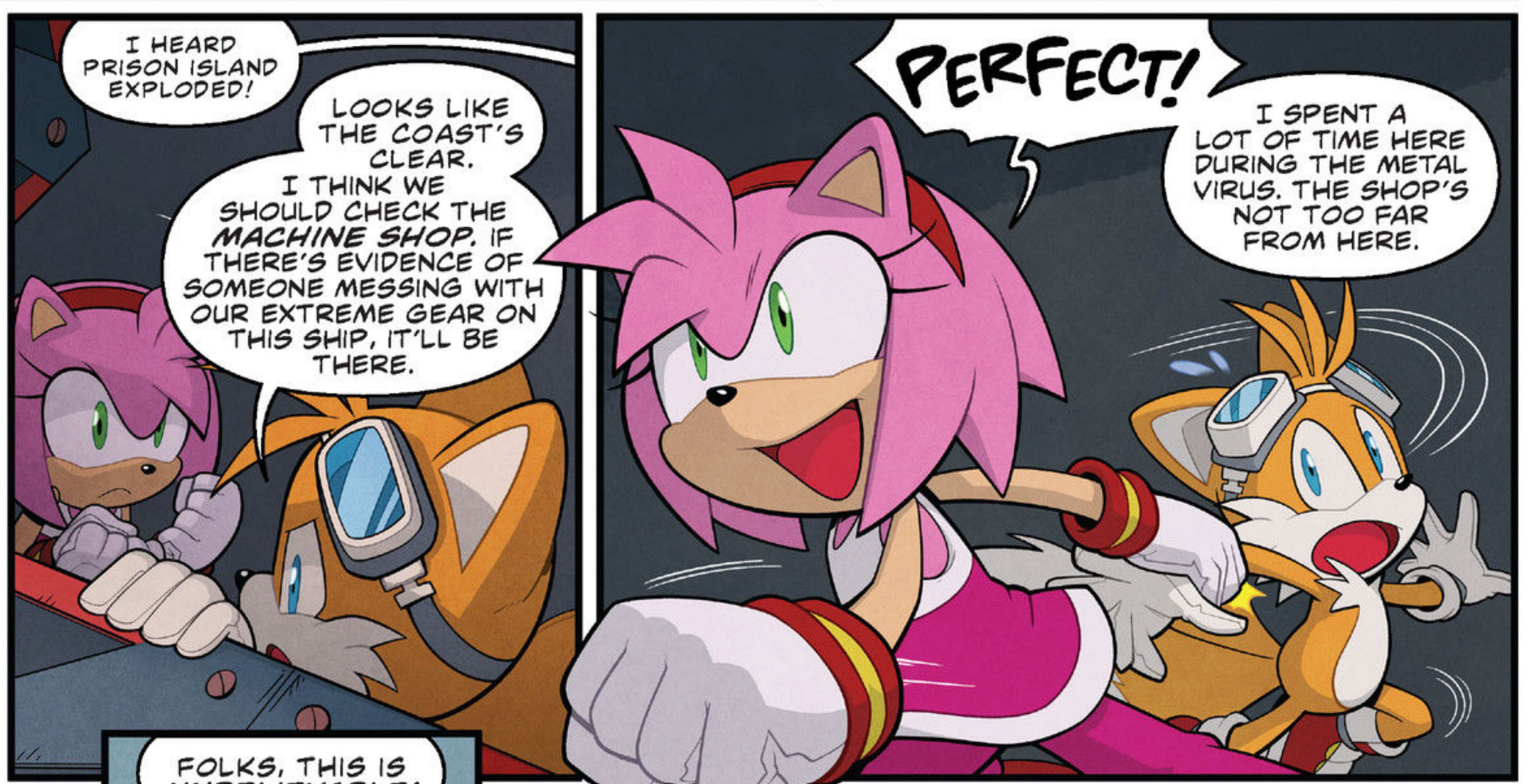
I'M ABOUT TO TURN THIS WHOLE PLACE UPSIDE DOWN, AND NONE'A YOU ARE FAST ENOUGH TO STOP ME!

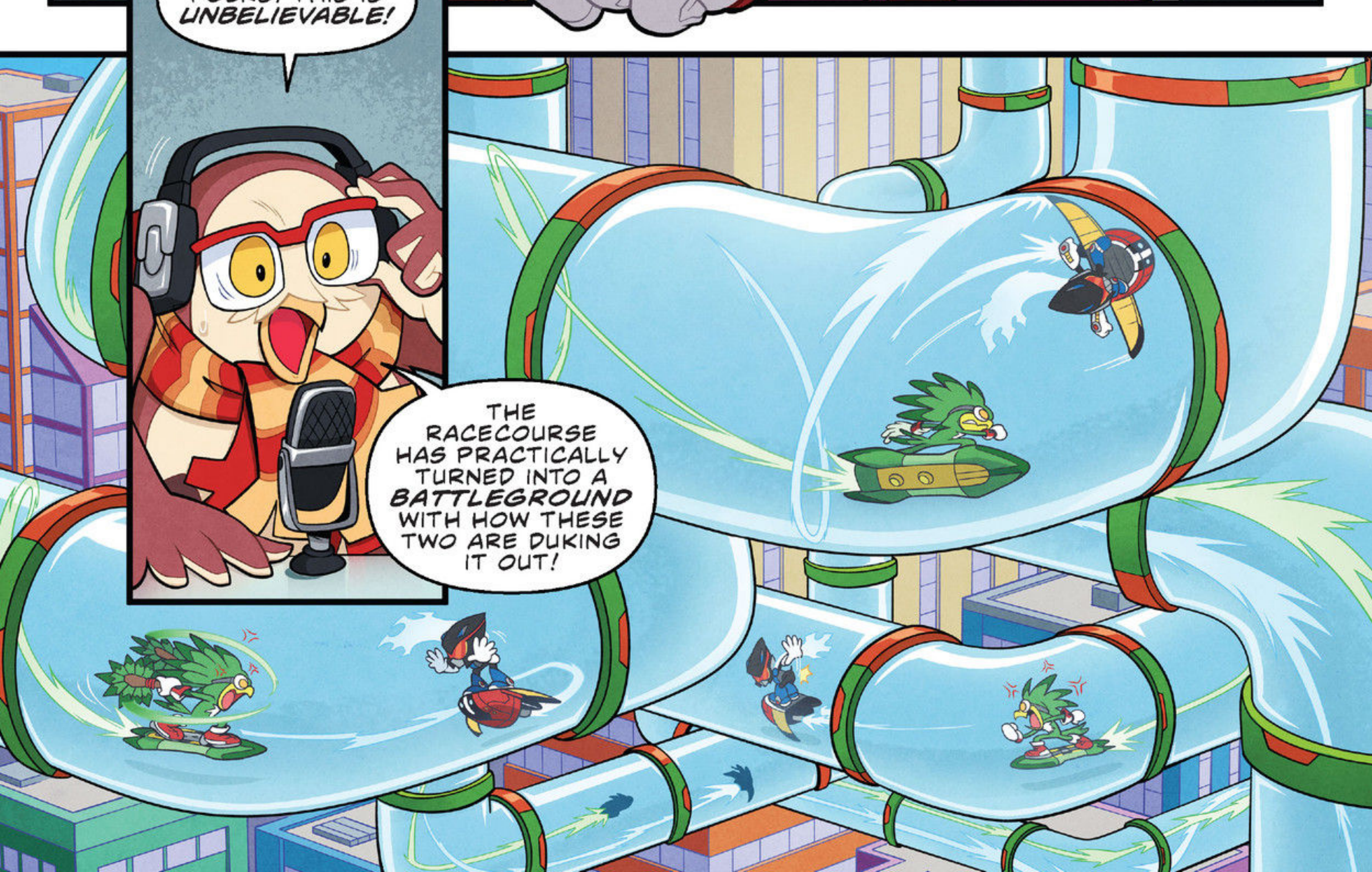

YOU'VE CLEARLY NEVER MET ME!
OH NO! I DIDN'T RUFFLE YOUR FEATHERS, DID I?
WAIT FOR US, BOSS!
DANG! THE DOC WASN'T MESSING AROUND. THIS GEAR IS ON A WHOLE 'NOTHER LEVEL!
JET, IGNORE THIS WHACKO! HE'S NOT EVEN PART OF THE EVENT!
BA-SHOOM
THAT HAD MORE KICK THAN I THOUGHT! IF I HELP, I'LL BLOW MY COVER, BUT...
AHH!
SWIP
GOTCHA!
THIS PHANTOM RIDER IS RUTHLESS! IT'S A GOOD THING OUR RESTORATION REFS WERE THERE!
DUO, CALL IN MORE SECURITY. THE "PHANTOM RIDER" IS GOING DOWN.

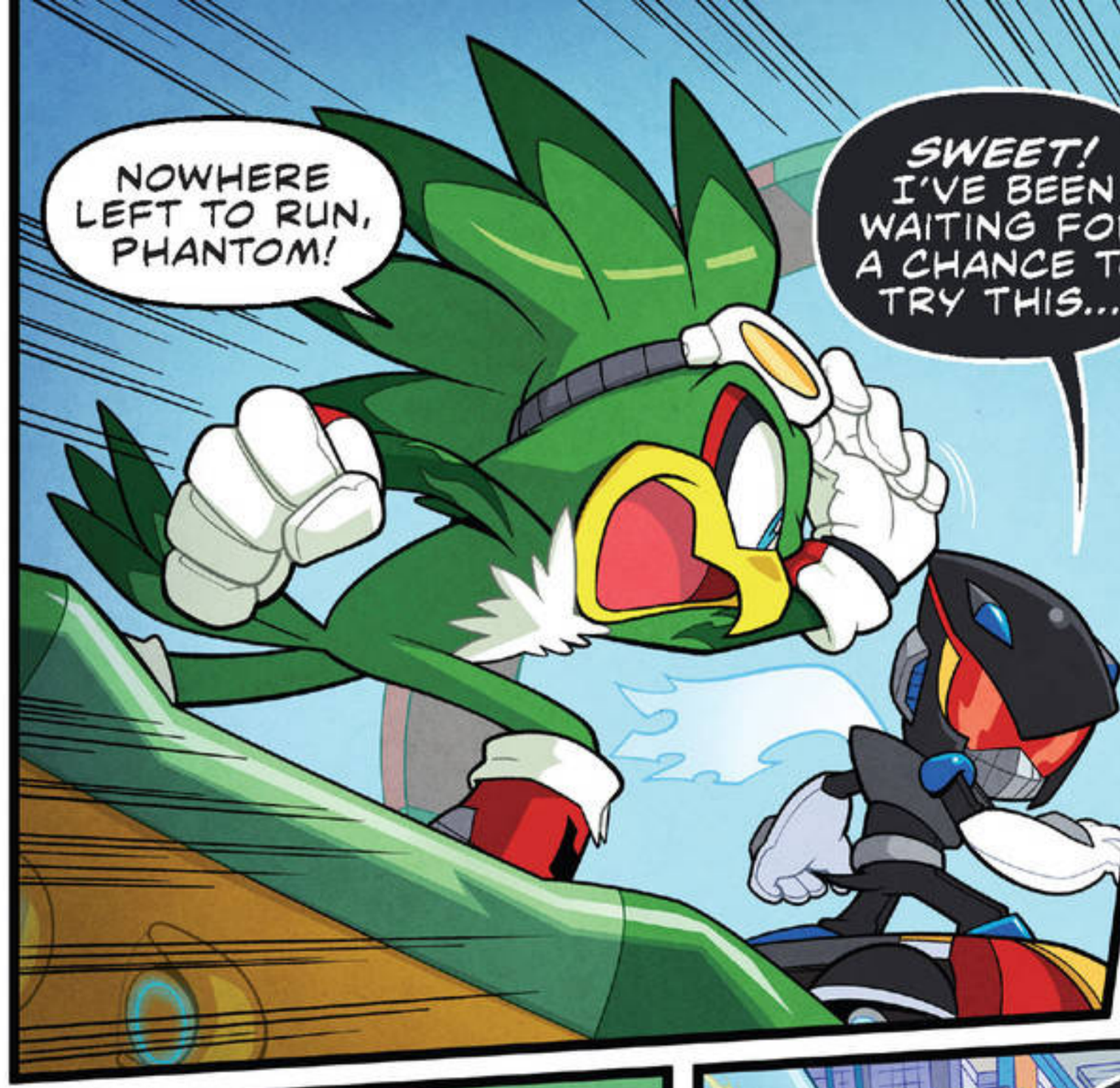
MEANWHILE...
SECURITY
SECURITY
SECURITY
SECURITY
SWOOSH
THUNK


I JUST HEARD SOMETHING! DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
UH, YEAH, THE DOOR CLOSING. WHY'RE YOU SO JUMPY, MAN?
SECURITY
SECURITY
OPEN
CLOSE

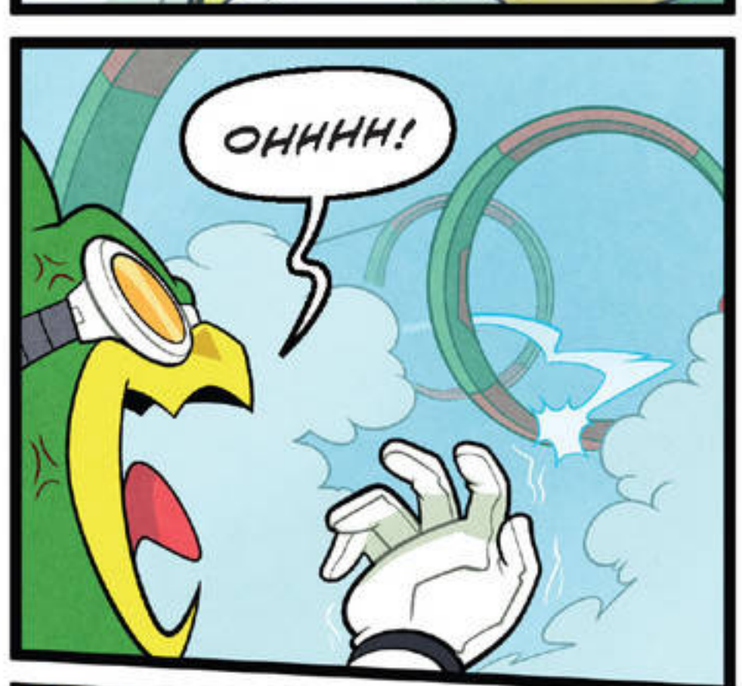

I'M NOT JUMPY, I'M VIGILANT!
LOOK, THE BOSS HAS THIS PLACE LOCKED UP TIGHTER THAN PRISON ISLAND. NOTHING'S GETTING IN.

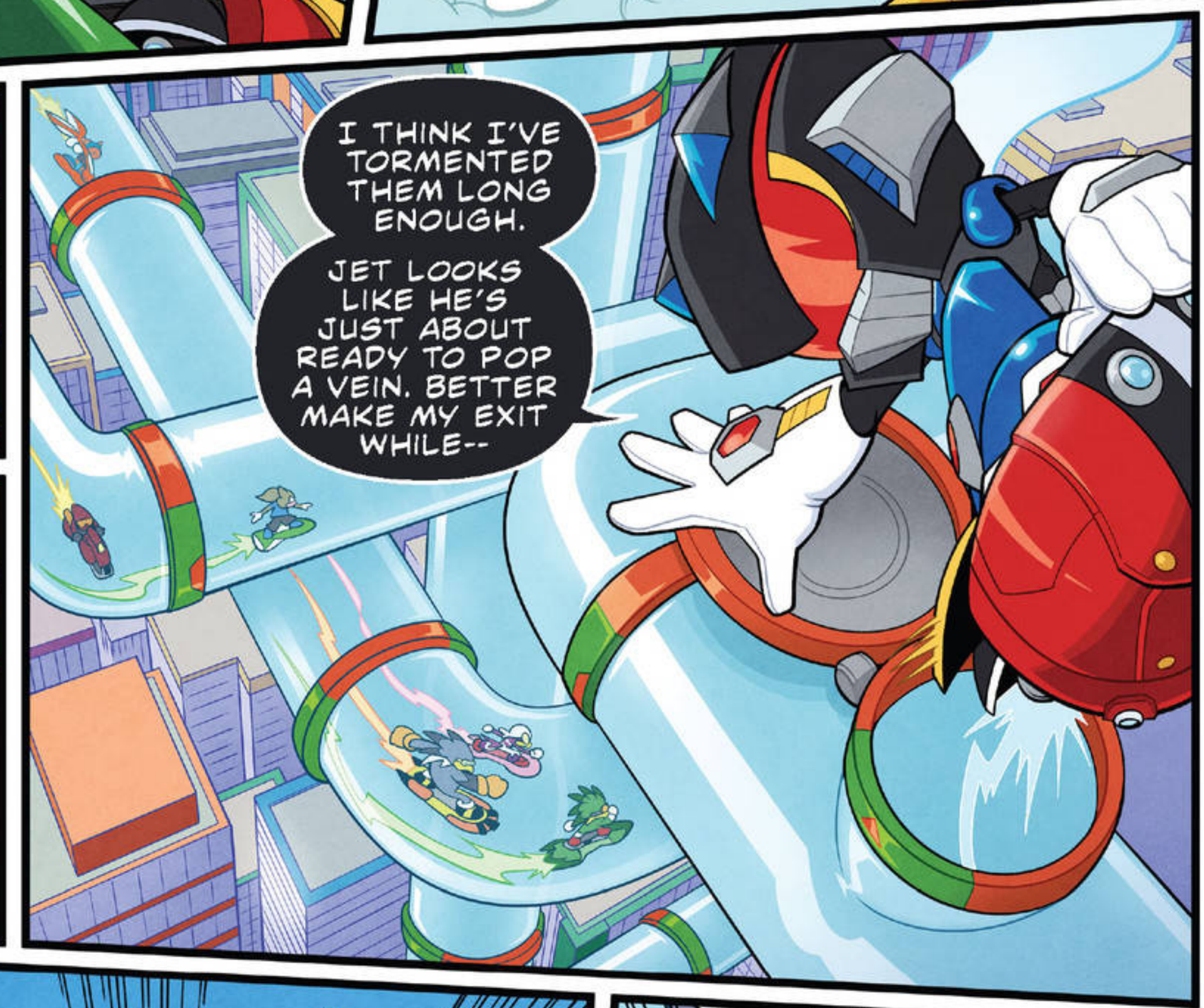

I HEARD PRISON ISLAND EXPLODED!
LOOKS LIKE THE COAST'S CLEAR. I THINK WE SHOULD CHECK THE MACHINE SHOP. IF THERE'S EVIDENCE OF SOMEONE MESSING WITH OUR EXTREME GEAR ON THIS SHIP, IT'LL BE THERE.
PERFECT!
I SPENT A LOT OF TIME HERE DURING THE METAL VIRUS. THE SHOP'S NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE.


FOLKS, THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!
THE RACECOURSE HAS PRACTICALLY TURNED INTO A BATTLEGROUND WITH HOW THESE TWO ARE DUKING IT OUT!


NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN, PHANTOM!
SWEET! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO TRY THIS...

...EVER SEEN THIS TRICK BEFORE? IT'S A CLASSIC!
GAH!
PSSSH


OHHHH!

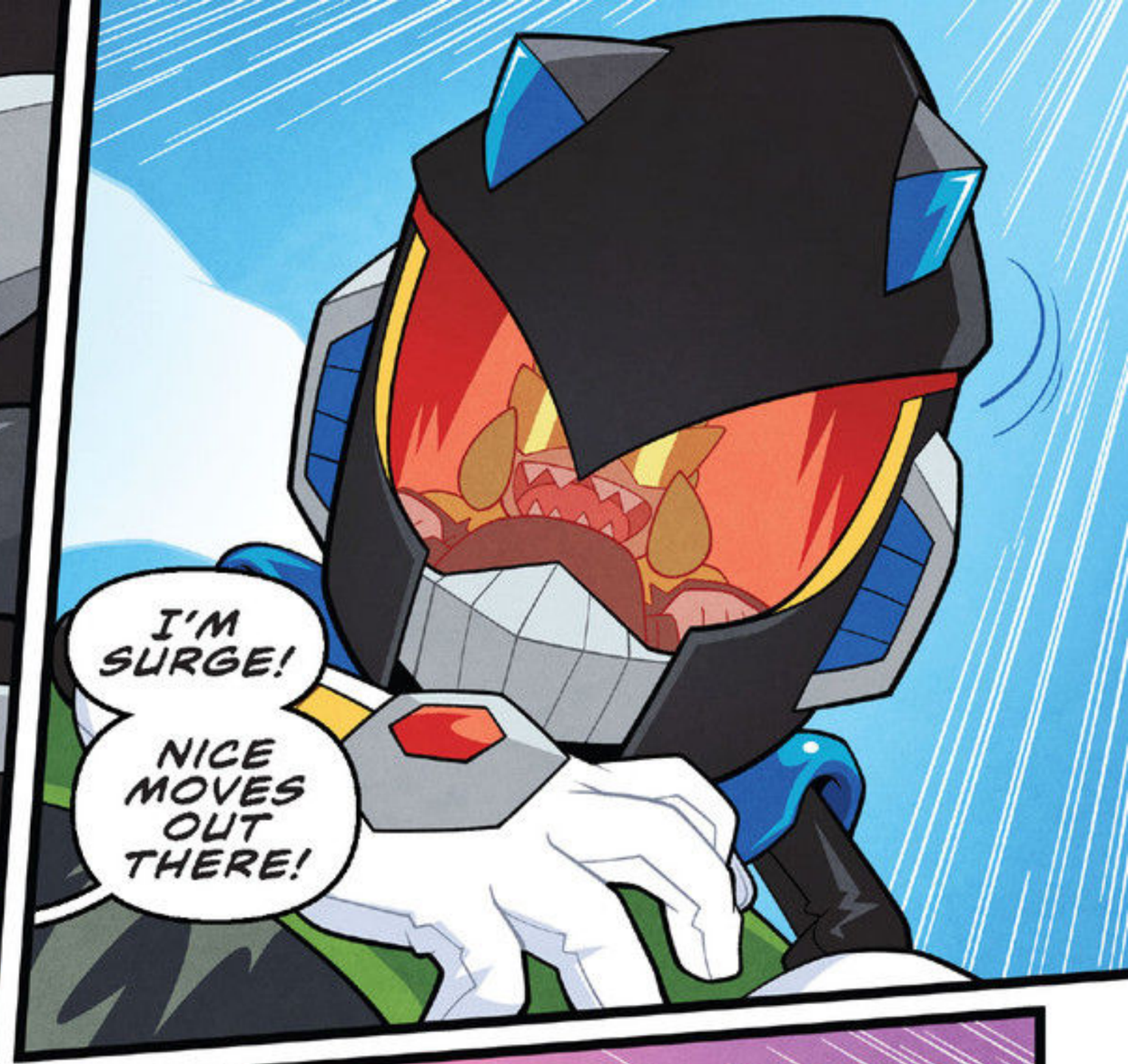

I THINK I'VE TORMENTED THEM LONG ENOUGH.
JET LOOKS LIKE HE'S JUST ABOUT READY TO POP A VEIN. BETTER MAKE MY EXIT WHILE--

YOU! STOP AND LAND IMMEDIATELY!
CLEAN SWEEP'S FINEST HAVE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH THE TROUBLEMAKER! IT LOOKS LIKE THE PHANTOM RIDER'S REIGN OF TERROR HAS COME TO AN END!

SKYONG

DISMOUNT YOUR GEAR, AND--
WAIT, DON'T--
CRACK-AK-AK
NO...
CRASH
NO!
AAH... THANK YOU?!
DON'T MENTION IT, PLEASE!
MADE IT! NOW, TO LIE LOW AND--
WHAM!

HI!
S-SURGE!


I'M SURGE!
NICE MOVES OUT THERE!

YOU SEEM LIKE THE KINDA GUY WHO CAN APPRECIATE A GOOD THRASHING!
WAIT...

KLZZAK

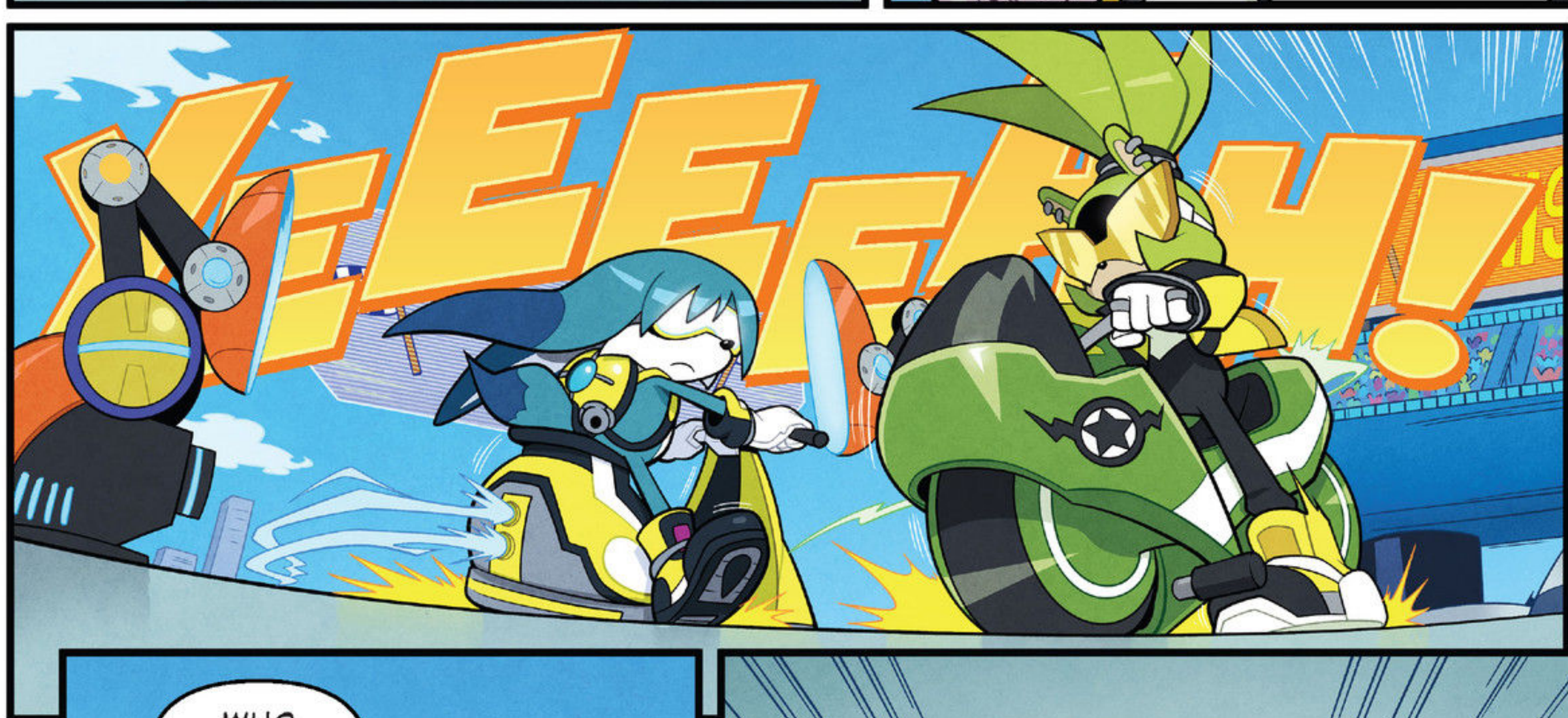
!

WHAK
SORRY, BUT I GOTTA TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THE BEATDOWN. LATER!

C'MON, C'MON...
BIP-BIP-BIP-BIP
VVT
WHOOSH
WE'RE DONE WHEN I SAY WE'RE DONE, YOU--
STOP!
WHAT? IT WAS JUST STARTIN' TO GET GOOD!
IF WE LEAVE NOW, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH THE RACE! A-AND MR. CLUTCH HIRED US TO STAY IN THE SWEEPSTAKES, SO...
"UGHHH...
"...FINE, YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT NEXT TIME, I'M NOT LETTING HIM GO."

HEY, YOU STILL MANAGED TO FINISH FIRST. THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT?
IT GOT A WHOLE LOT EASIER ONCE THAT SPOOKY GUY LEFT!
2
1
3

I GUESS IT'S NOT SO BAD... THE MOBS OF ADORING FANS ARE ALWAYS A NICE BONUS.
WOO!
YEE!
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE CHEERING FOR US, JET.


YEEEEH!

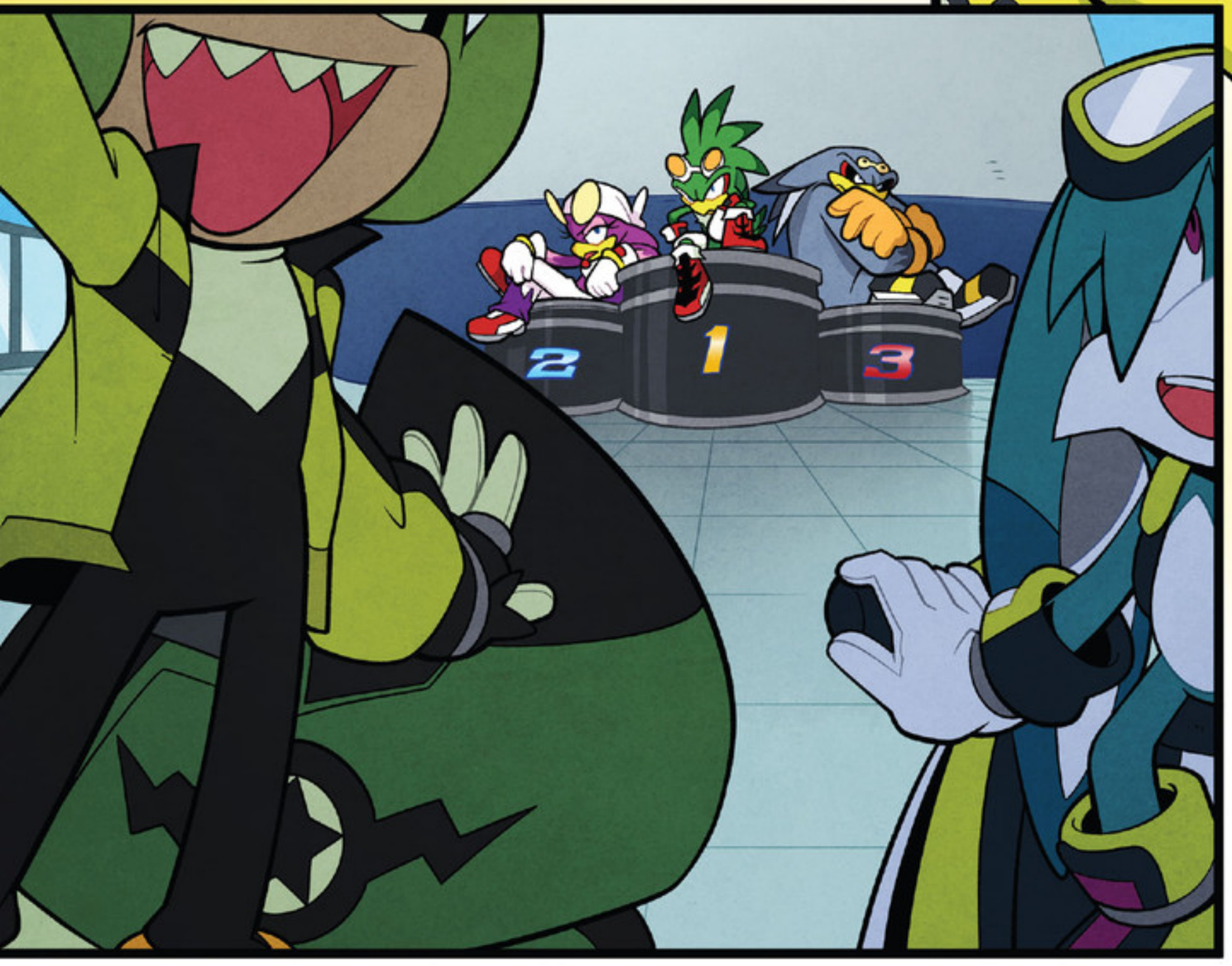
WHO ARE THEY CLAPPING FOR?
I DUNNO...

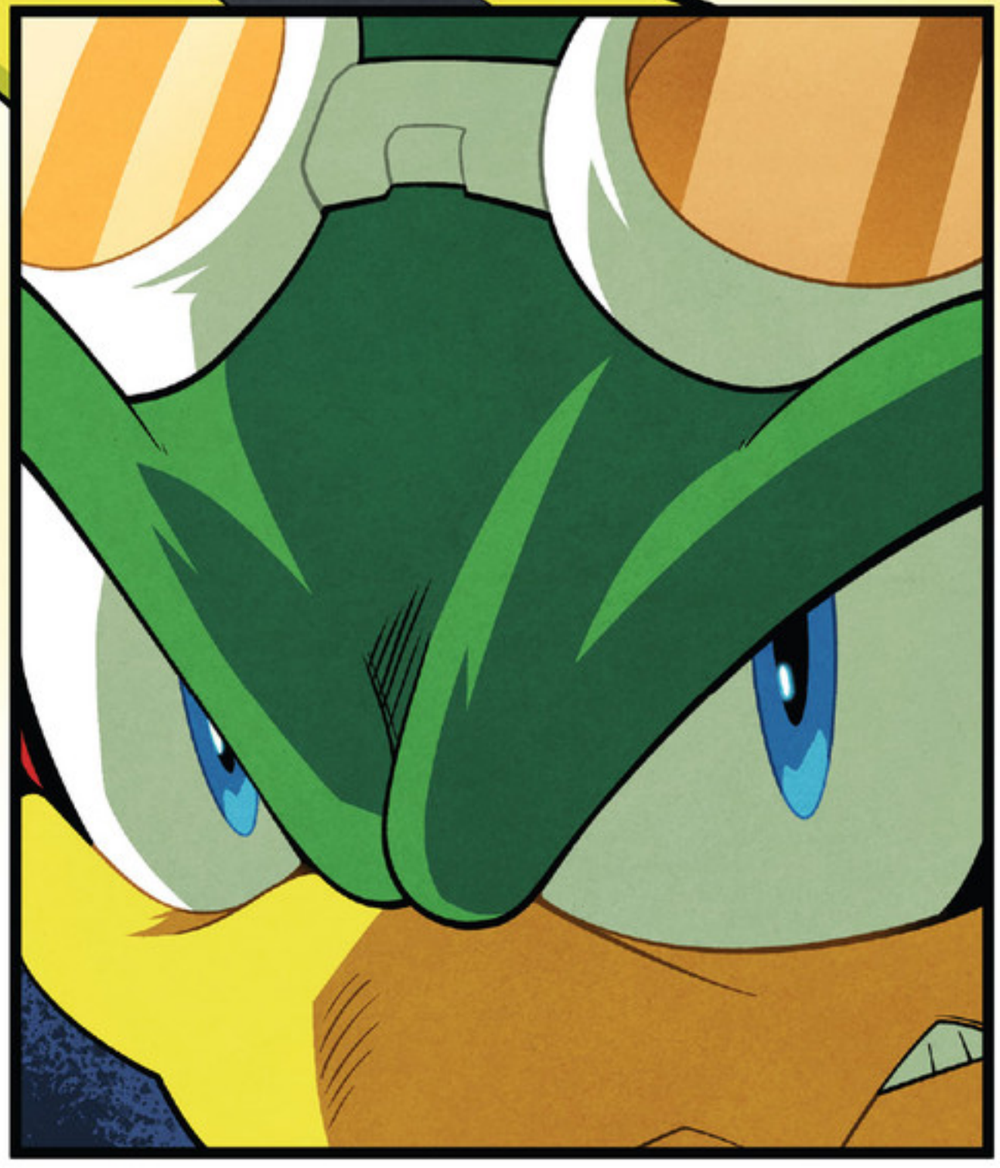
THERE THEY ARE, FOLKS! THE *HEROES* WHO FINALLY SCARED OFF THE PHANTOM RIDER!

THE SPEED! THE GUTS! TRULY A DECISIVE TAKEDOWN!

LOOKS LIKE THE PHANTOM HAS GIVEN UP THE GHOST!
IT'S... FOR US?
YEAH...

...WE'RE HEROES!


2
1
3



LATER...
I ASKED AROUND, AND NOBODY HAS SEEN THEM. THEN I TRIED MS. ROSE'S NUMBER, BUT IT JUST WENT TO VOICEMAIL.

I SUPPOSE THEY'VE ALREADY MOVED ON TO SOMETHING ELSE. I'M SORRY, MS. JEWEL, I REALLY DID TRY...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, DUO.

I KNOW HOW SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS ARE. THEY'RE PROBABLY OFF SAVING THE WORLD SOMEWHERE!
HAHA, YEAH!

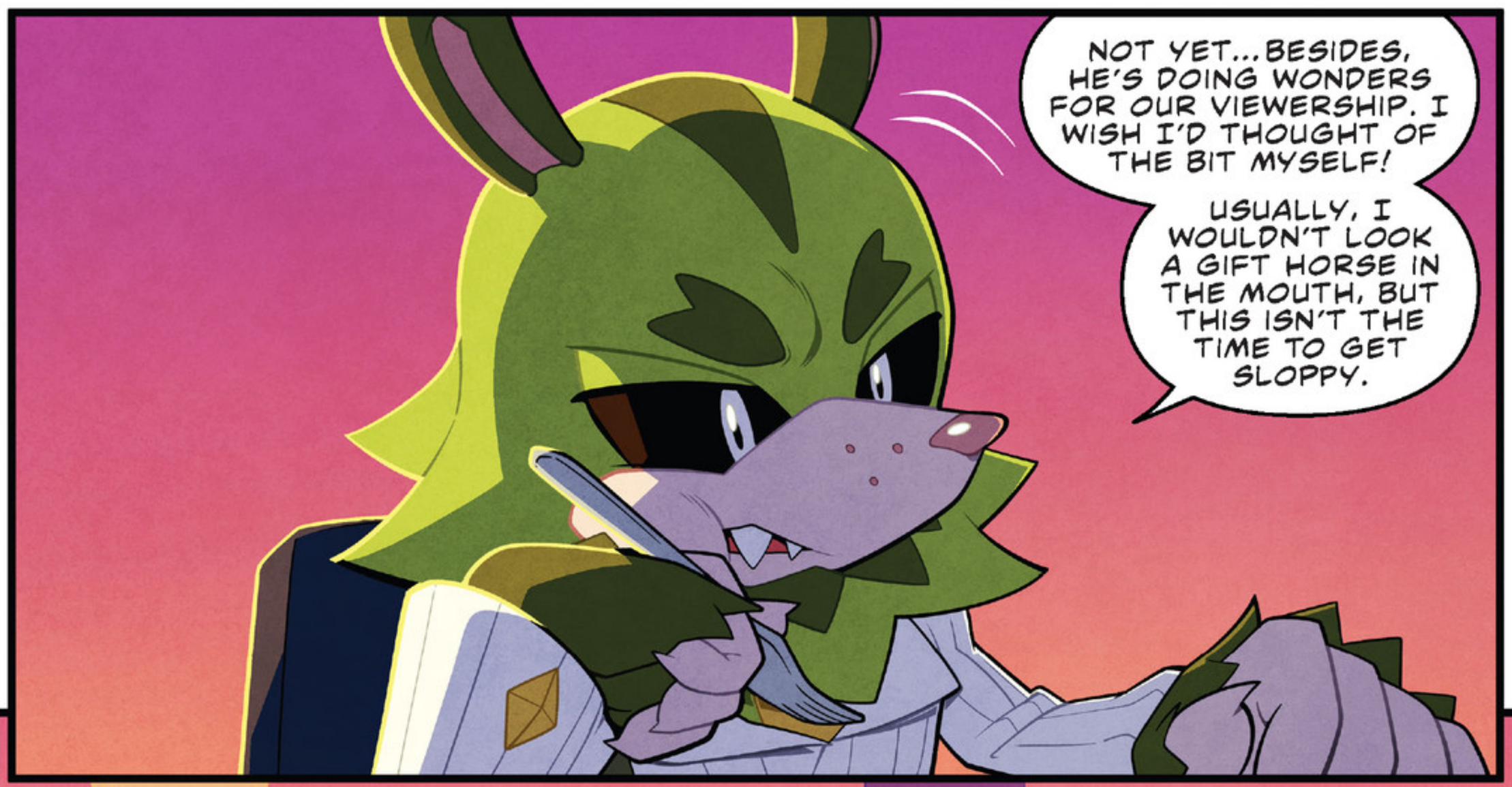
I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE REST OF THE TEAM. THANKS FOR THE TEA, AND FOR UNDERSTANDING.

OF COURSE! GOODNIGHT, DUO.

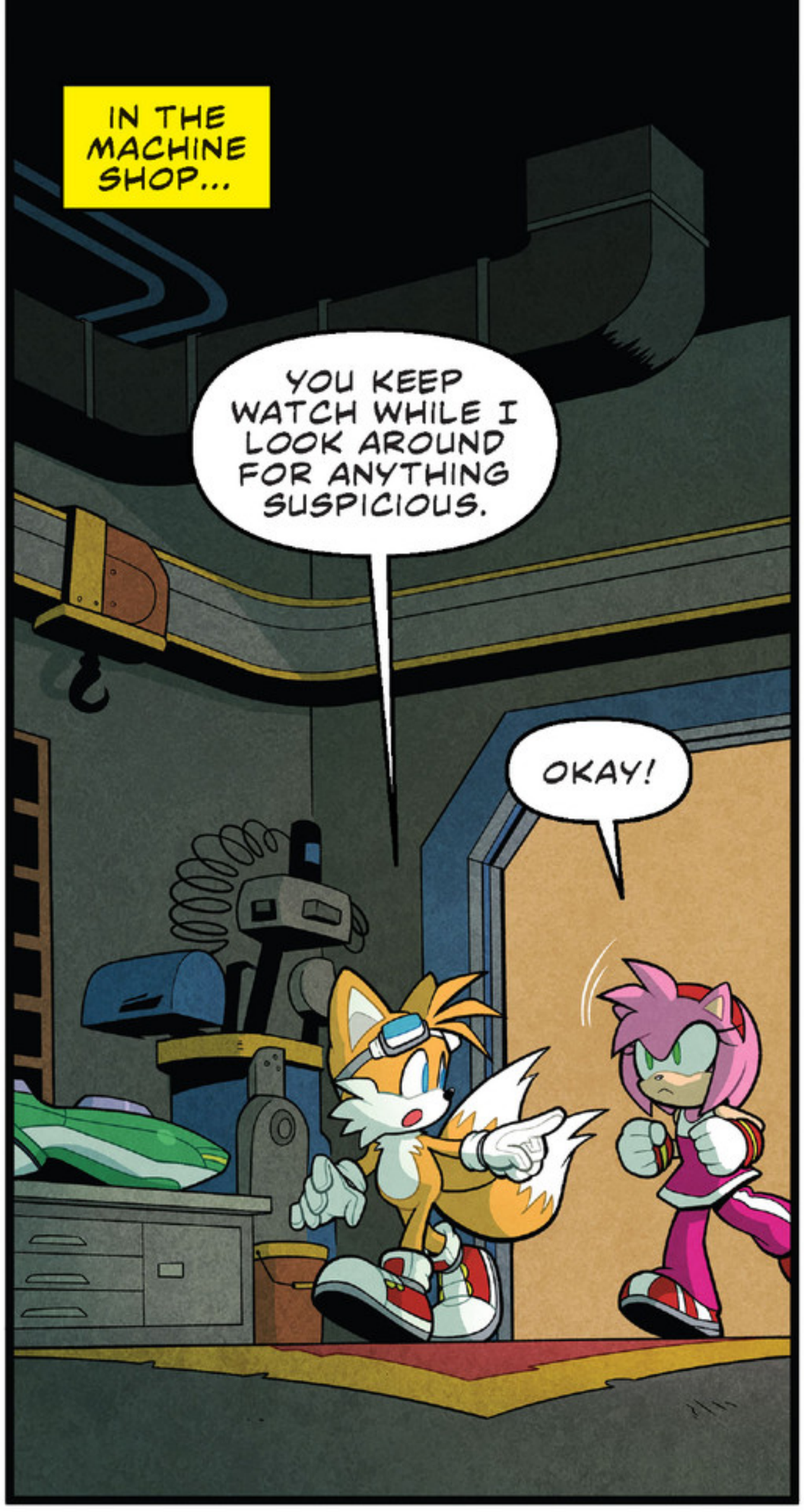
...

SHE BOUGHT IT, NO PROBLEM.
GOOD. AND JUST IN CASE HER MIND WANDERS, LET'S HAVE THE NEXT SUPPLY DROP GO MISSING. THAT SHOULD KEEP THE LITTLE LADY BUSY.

FUNNY GUY, THIS PHANTOM.
YOU DON'T THINK HE'S A LIABILITY?


NOT YET...BESIDES, HE'S DOING WONDERS FOR OUR VIEWERSHIP. I WISH I'D THOUGHT OF THE BIT MYSELF!
USUALLY, I WOULDN'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH, BUT THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO GET SLOPPY.

IN THE NEXT EVENT, UNMASK OUR NEW FRIEND...BUT KEEP IT QUIET. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
YES, SIR.


IN THE MACHINE SHOP...
YOU KEEP WATCH WHILE I LOOK AROUND FOR ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS.
OKAY!

AHH, PERFECT!
TAILS, THAT'S A DUMPSTER.
EXACTLY!

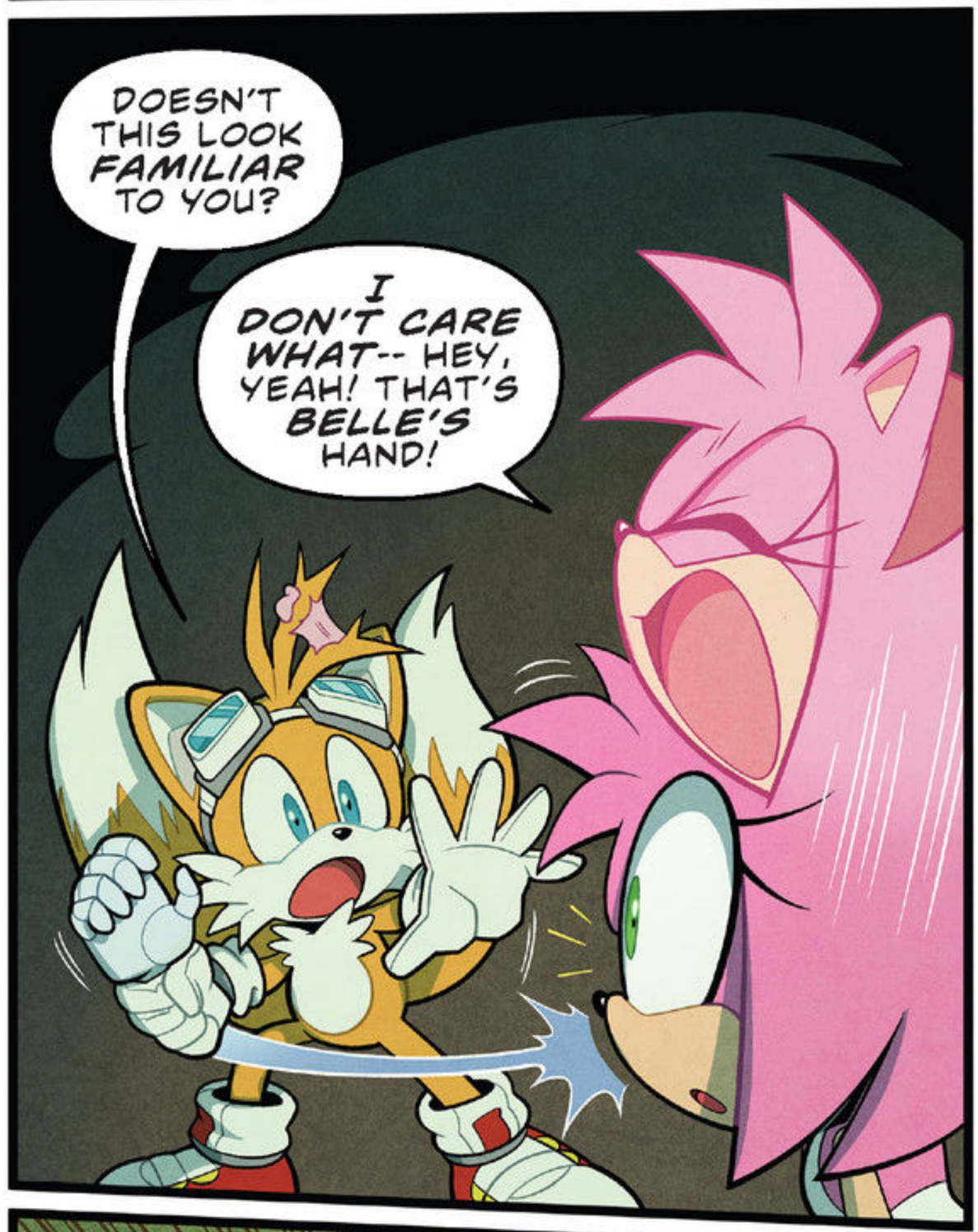
I'VE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE THAT IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SOMEONE'S HIDDEN, ALWAYS CHECK THE TRASH!
DON'T COME CRYIN' TO ME IF YOU GET SOME GUM STUCK IN YOUR HAIR OR WHATEVER.

SKITTER
HUH?

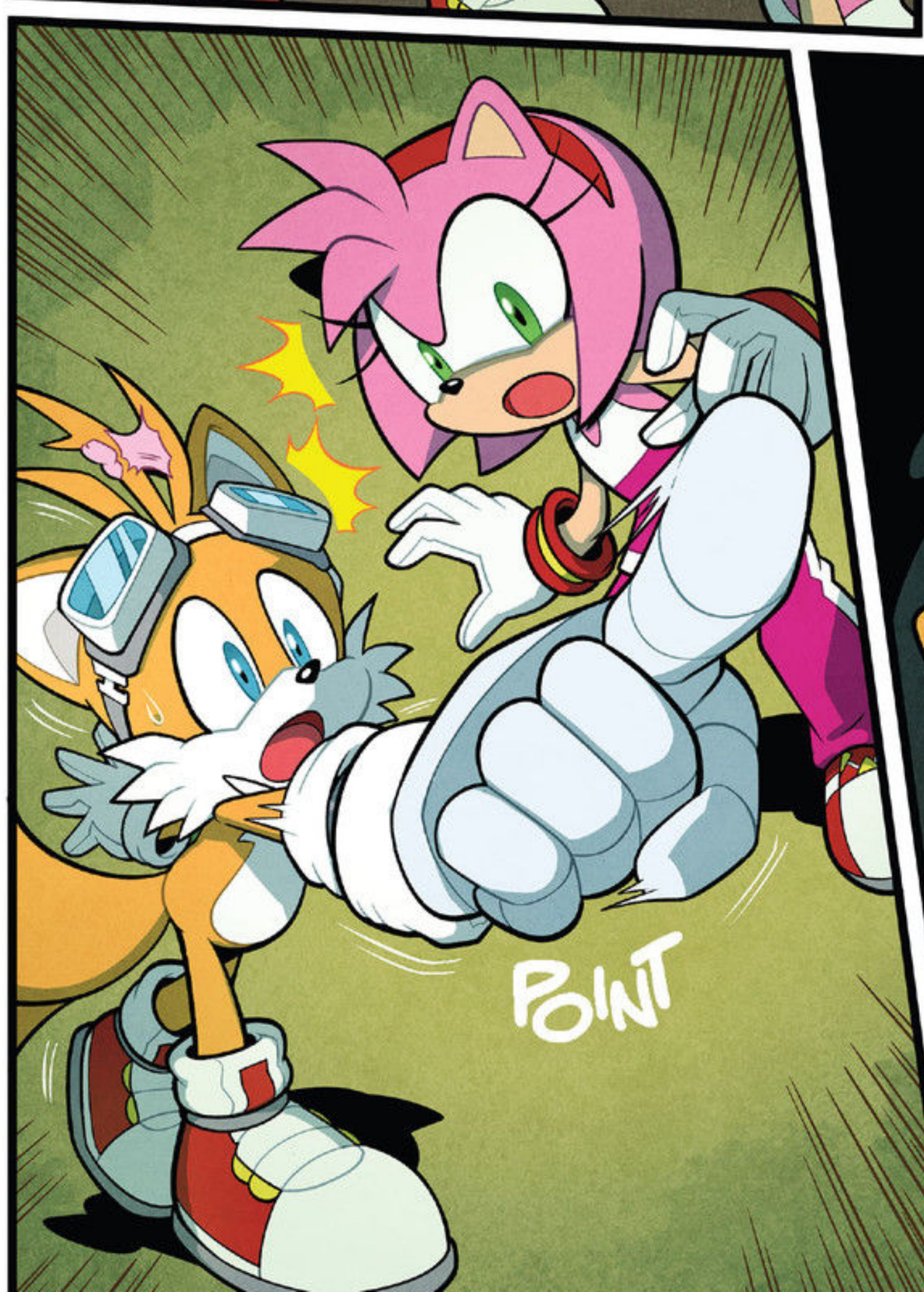
CLATTA

SHFSHFFL
I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW SOMETHING...
SKITTER
!!!
PIKO
EEEYAAAHH!
AMY!
WHAT'S-- WHOA!
GET IT OFF ME!

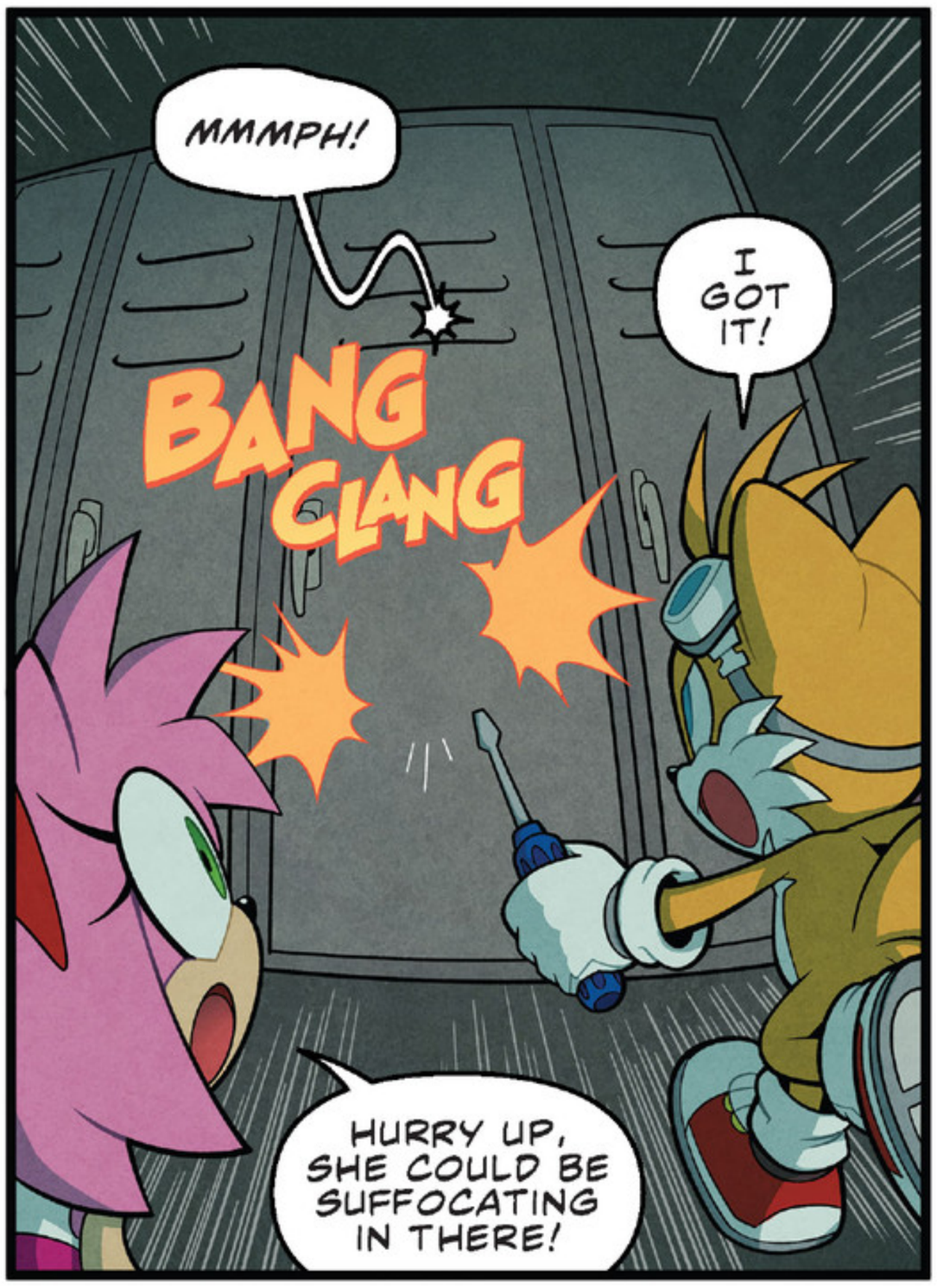
YOU GRAB IT, AND I'LL SMASH IT!
WAIT!


DOESN'T THIS LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?
I DON'T CARE WHAT-- HEY, YEAH! THAT'S BELLE'S HAND!

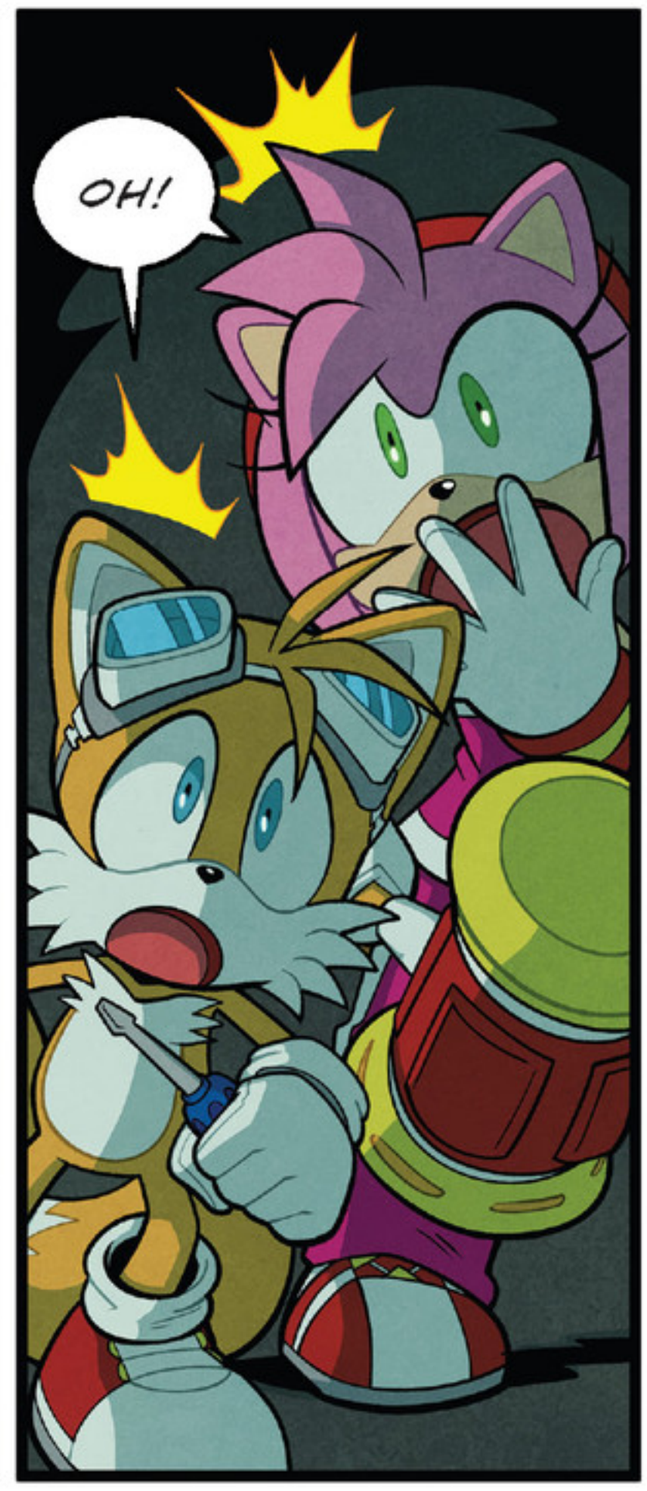
SO WHY'D IT JUMP ON MY FREAKIN' FACE, HUH?!

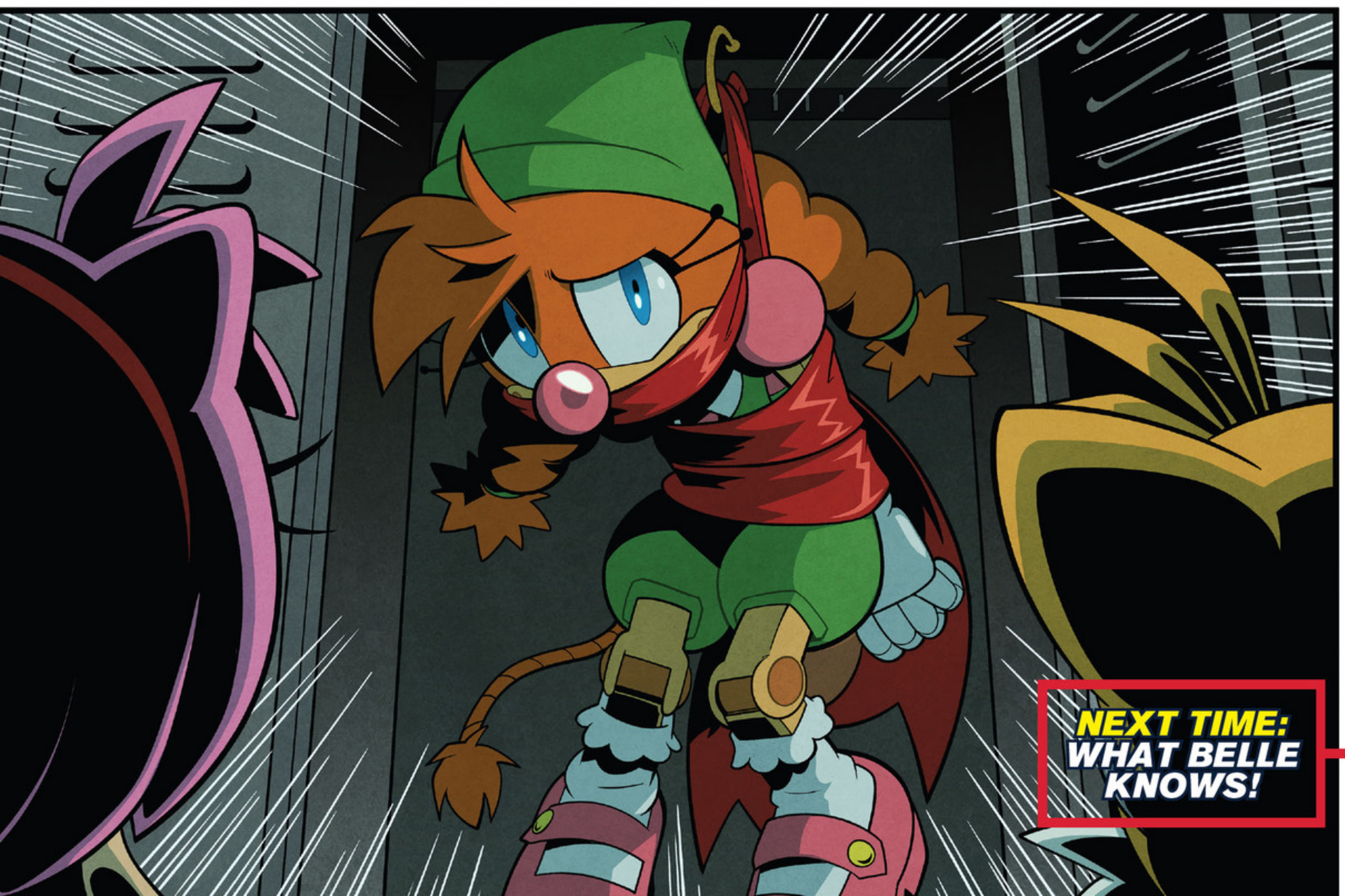

POINT

I THINK WE'RE GONNA FIND OUT...


MMMPH!
I GOT IT!
BANG CLANG
HURRY UP, SHE COULD BE SUFFOCATING IN THERE!

THIS TAKES PRECISION! ALSO, ROBOTS DON'T NEED TO-- HEY!
PIKO


OH!


NEXT TIME: WHAT BELLE KNOWS!

NEXT MONTH
DEE GEE MIN

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

What's up, Sonic Squad? This sure was a wild issue! Sonic is a mystery rider using Eggman's tech, and Surge *and* Kit are seen as *heroes?!* Clearly stuff is topsy-turvy! I wonder what Belle is going to reveal once she's freed... Until then, thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Aaron Hammerstrom, Matt Froese, Reggie Graham, and Shawn Lee for this amazing story! Now, on to the art and letters!

Hello,

My name is Micah, I'm 14 years old. I have been a *Sonic* fan since I was 6 years old. *Sonic* inspired me to start drawing and making my own comics. I love the *Sonic* IDW, Archie, and Fleetway comics. I just started reading them a couple of months ago, and they're all great. The story, artwork, and characters are so good. I have been reading an issue every day after finishing my schoolwork, and I have been loving them so far. I just wanted to send my art as a bonus.

I have one question for the team: If you could have anyone do a crossover with *Sonic,* who would it be?

Thank you for your time, it means a lot to me. And keep up the great work, *Sonic* comic team. You really are amazing.

Hi, Micah,

We're so excited that you enjoy our comics! It's amazing to see *Sonic* encourage artists like you to draw and express themselves, and I hope we can continue making cool comics that spark that inspiration!

As for that big question, we're not huge fans of spoilers over here, but I'd keep my eye out in the coming months for a *Sonic* crossover. We can't say who it's going to be with, but they're a BIG threat to the Blue Blur and his friends!

Thank you so much for your message and keep up the amazing work!

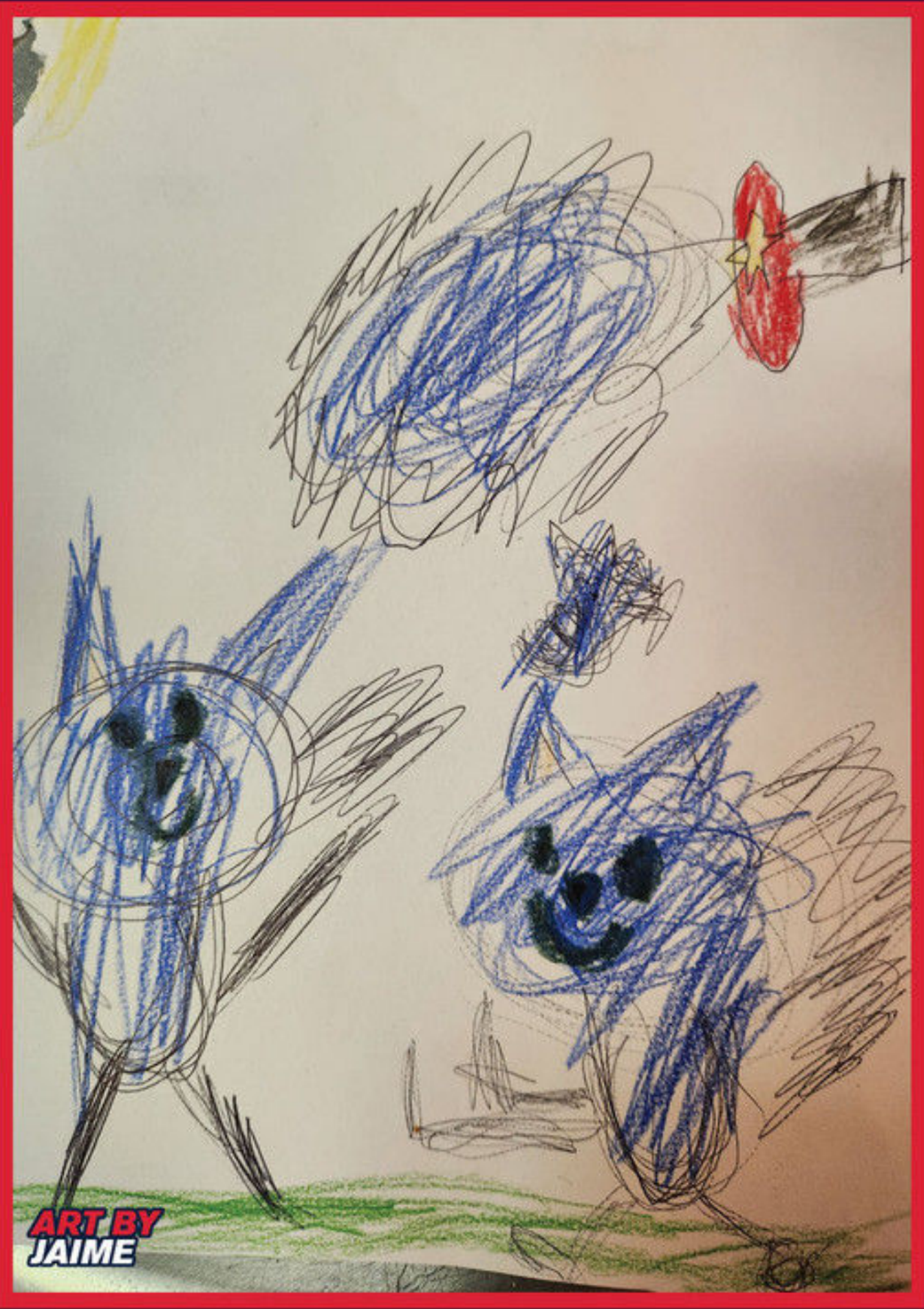
I like Sonic because he is so fast and so blue.

Jaime

You know what, Jaime, we do too!

Hi!

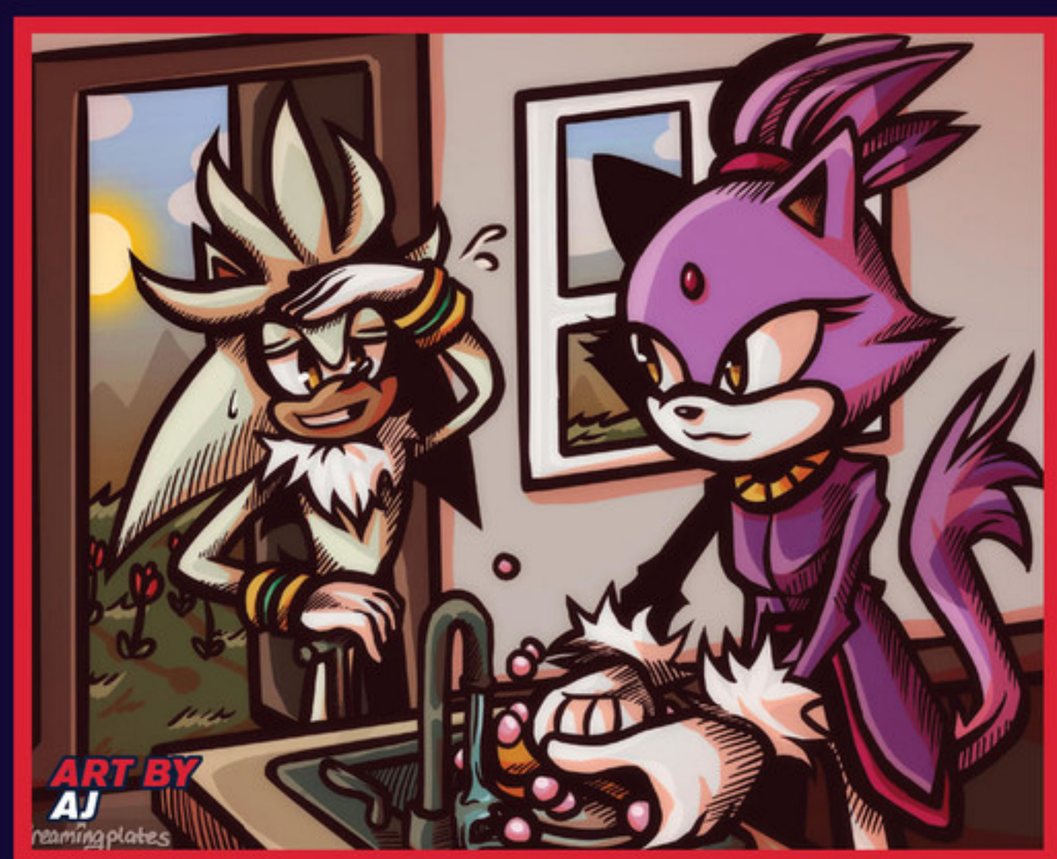
My name is Noah, and I am 9 years old. My favorite characters are Sonic and Tails. Sega is the best, and my favorite color is blue.



I finished Sega games, both one and two. I love reading your comic books. Every time my mom gets me one, I finish it super fast, just like Sonic would do!

Hi, Noah,

It's so important to have good friends you can rely on, especially if they're as sweet as Tails or as funny as Sonic! We're so glad you enjoy their friendship and our comics! We also want to extend a big thank-you to your mom for getting them for you! Thank you both for your support and for writing to us!



Hello!

I've just recently gotten back into *Sonic* again, and catching up with the IDW series has been an absolute treat. I adore how all of the characters are portrayed, and it's been particularly awesome to see more Silver and Blaze, since they don't get a lot of screentime in the games anymore. In fact, I wanted to show off a drawing I made of the pair doing some chores… Sounds boring, I know, but I always enjoy seeing the characters have a chance to just live normally (not that I don't love the crazy things they get up to usually)!

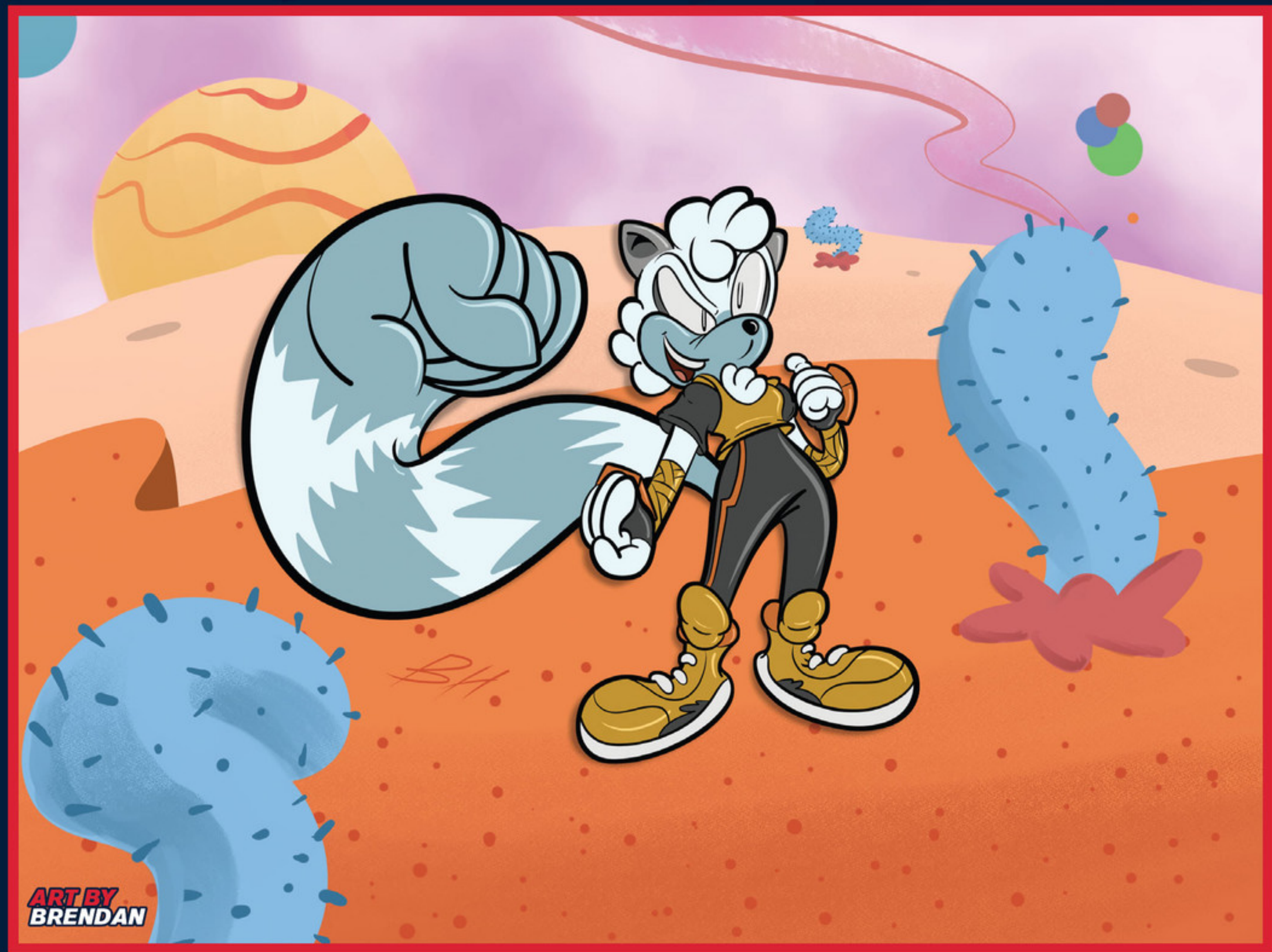
Thanks for all the wonderful reading material and artistic inspiration! Hoping to create stuff like you folks do someday!

AJ

Howdy, AJ,

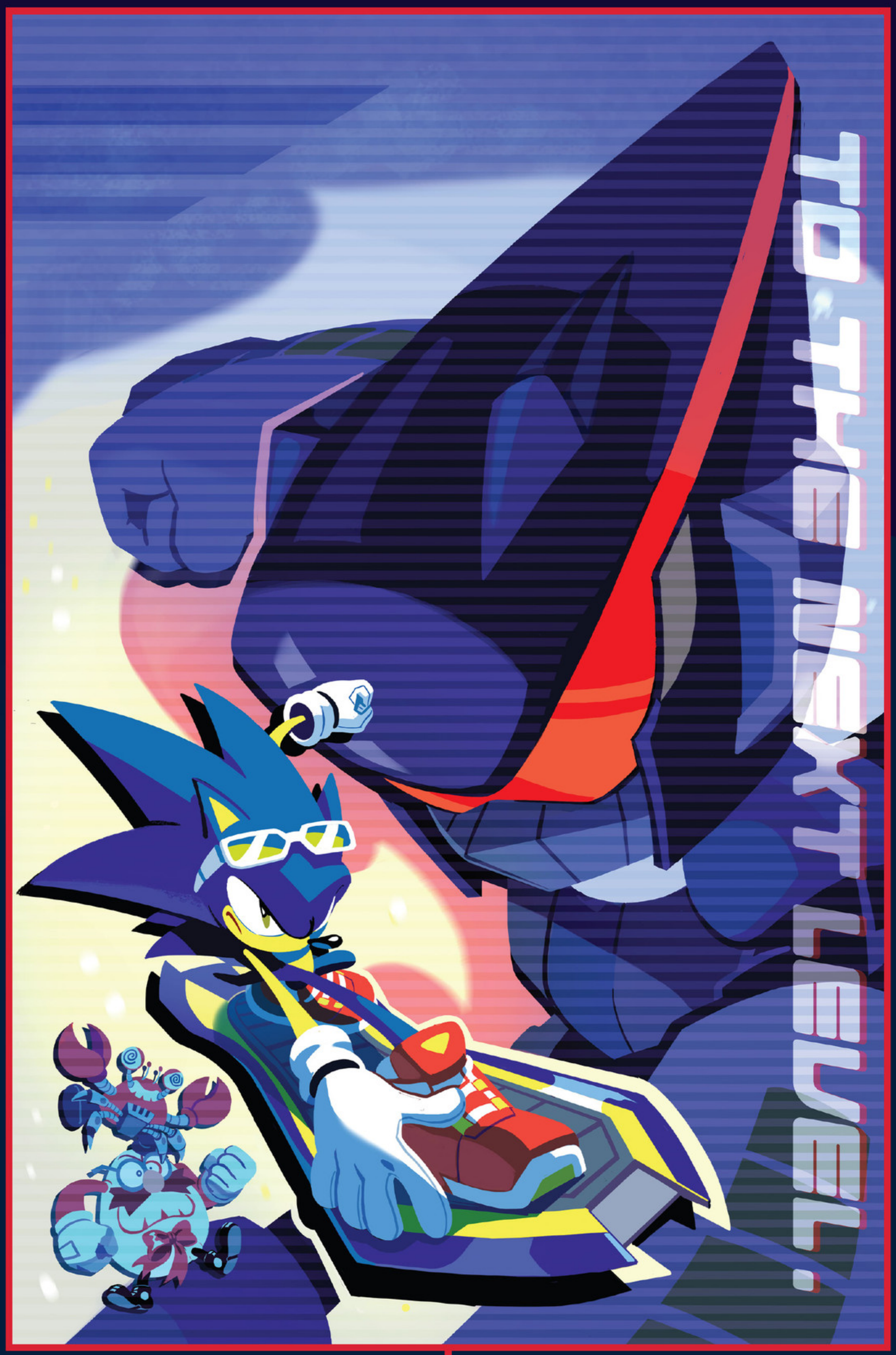
Welcome back to Sonic! We completely agree Silver and Blaze are really wonderful, and we love seeing them like this! At the end of the day, it's nice to think about our heroes living happy lives when the big bads aren't attacking! Thanks for sharing this sweet moment.

Thanks as always for joining us, Sonic Squad! Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, the Phantom Rider fights to stay in the competition as Amy and Tails discover the secret plot behind this race! See you in issue #71!



ART AARON HAMMERSTROM

ART ABIGAIL STARLING



ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

THE IDW COLLECTION

Deluxe editions collecting the complete IDW comic book continuity in recommended reading order!

VOLUME 1

Collects:
- *Fallout*
- *The Fate of Dr. Eggman*
- *Battle for Angel Island*

VOLUME 2

Collects:
- *Infection*
- *Crisis City*
- *The 2019 Annual*
- *Tangle and Whisper*

VOLUME 3

Collects:
- *The Last Minute*
- *All or Nothing*
- *Out of the Blue*
- *The 2020 Annual*

IDW @IDWPUBLISHING IDWPUBLISHING.COM

©SEGA

2024 IS A BIG YEAR FOR ANNIVERSARIES.

Look, I know every day is someone's birthday, and the calendar could be packed full commemorating historical events and movie release dates and what have you.

But from IDW's perspective, we are turning 25 this year and Godzilla is turning 70 and, wow, I got my first job in comics in 1994, so for me, this is year 30!

You're reading this in July, though, and that means we are smack-dab in the middle of our big *Teenage Mutant Turtles* celebration. It's been 40 years since Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird shared their unique creation with the world, publishing the very first issue of their black-and-white comic. It's a wonderful thing to see two friends cook up a crazy idea together, put everything they had into making it a reality, and then have the audience respond to their creation with never-ending enthusiasm.

We have a lot going on this year, but this month, in particular, we are staking a claim on the comics racks.

First up, the *TMNT 40th Anniversary Celebration*, an 80-page anthology of brand-new stories paying tribute to the grand history of the Turtles, from those early days in Mirage, into other media, and ending up at IDW, where the fellas have lived for over a decade. We have reached out to so many talented people and asked them to come back and visit again: Jim Lawson; Tristan Jones and Paul Harmon; Erik Burnham and Sarah Myer; Lloyd Goldfine, Khary Randolph, and Emilio Lopez; Tom Waltz and Michael Dialynas; Ciro Nieli; Ronda Pattison and Pablo Tunica; Andy Suriano; and many more. Plus, they'll be covers by the likes of the Escorza Brothers, Ben Bishop, Michael Cho, Vincenzo Federici, Michael Dooney, and the almighty Simon Bisley!

And the cherry on top is a never-before-seen cover by **Eastman** and **Laird** themselves.

No celebration is just about the past, however; we have to think about the future. In this case especially, the best way to honor Eastman and Laird is to continue in their great tradition and keep telling exciting stories with the characters they brought to life.

We are starting a brand-new ongoing *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* series with writer Jason Aaron at the helm. You may know him from *Thor* or *Scalped* or *Action Comics* or so many others. He's kind of a big deal, and that means pairing him with other big deals. This new #1 will feature art by *Lady Killer* and *Wonder Girl* creator Joëlle Jones, as the two of them catch up with Raphael, who has somehow ended up in prison! When mysterious ninja attack, we'll quickly learn that all is not as it seems.

This will be followed by a trio of amazing artists paired with their favorite characters: Rafael Albuquerque *(American Vampire)* and Michaelangelo; Cliff Chiang *(Paper Girls)* and Leonardo; and Chris Burnham *(Doom Patrol)* returns to finish Donnie's story, which he and Jason started in *TMNT: Alpha*.

If you love *TMNT*, these two books will remind you of every reason why. If you've never read a *TMNT* comic before, then wow, are you about to discover your new favorite thing! Just the same way so many other folks did back in 1984.

Jamie S. Rich
Editor-in-chief

ON SALE JULY 3RD